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THE HISTORY  
OF THE  
TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, Vt.

[FROM VOL. IV, OF THE VERMONT HISTORICAL GAZETTEER, NOW IN PRESS.]



INCLUDING  
AN ENGRAVING OF BETHANY CHURCH AT MONTPELIER,  
AND  
PAPERS FROM MARSHFIELD AND MIDDLESEX.

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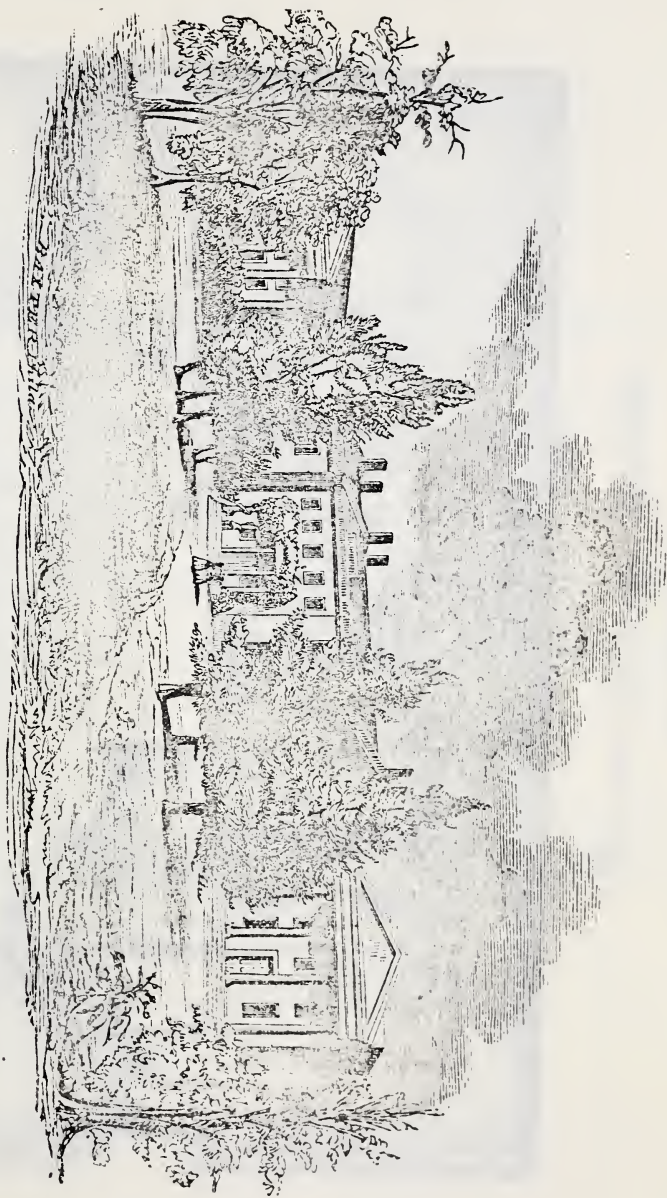


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BETHANY CHURCH, MONTEPELIER.



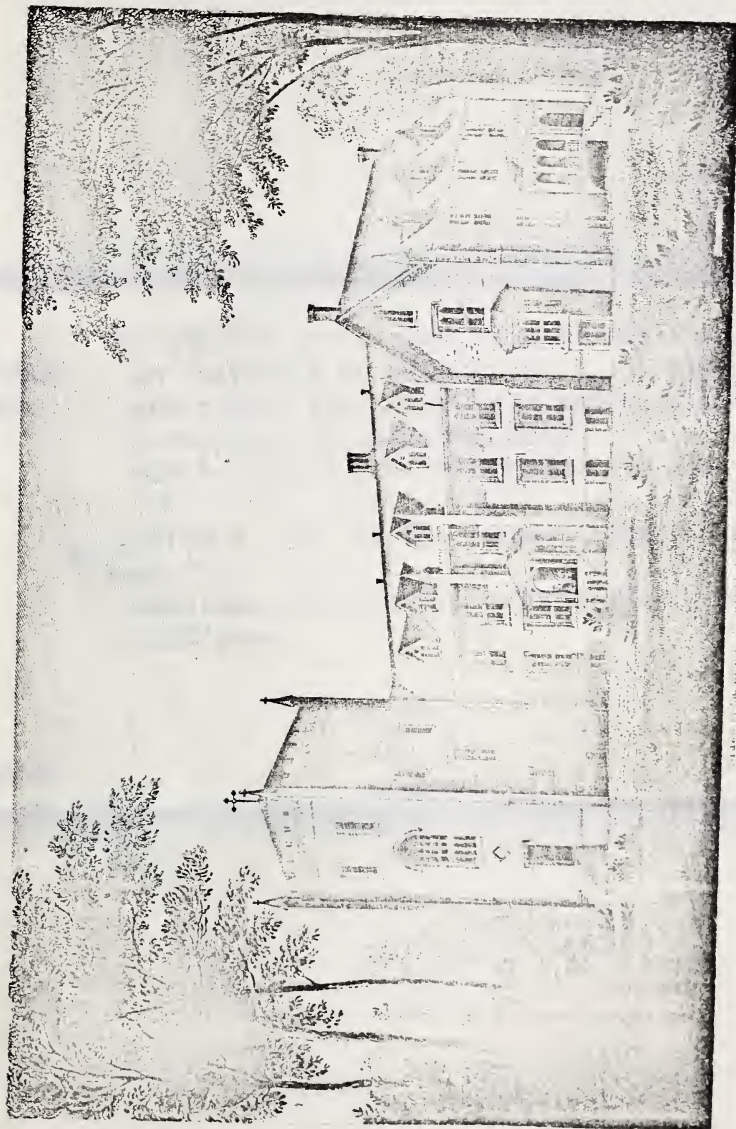


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SHIRT CARD

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WAITSFIELD.

BY REV. P. B. FISK.

[NOTE.—The writer desires at the outset, to acknowledge gratefully the assistance he has received from several of his fellow-townsmen, and especially to give the credit due to the late Jennison Jones, Esq., for his MS., in which most of the facts and dates prior to 1850, were faithfully recorded.]

The township owes its name to Gen. Benjamin Wait—the first settler and leading proprietor of the town. It is situated in the south-western part of Washington Co., bounded by Moretown, Northfield, Warren, and Fayston. Its post-office is 20 miles (more or less) from the capital of the State, and lies snugly embedded just in the "Fork of the Y" of the Green Mountain range. The valley of the Mad river, running from south-west to north-east intersects it, the serpentine course of the stream both beautifying the scenery, and enriching and devouring by turns the meadows through which it winds its way. At the bottom of the deeply cut channel of the river may be seen the trunks of old trees, partly washed out, projecting from the banks, which must have been a hundred years old before they were overthrown. They are buried at a depth of about 10 feet in pebbles, gravel, and surface soil. Moreover, 60 years ago there was a heavy growth of timber standing on this soil. Probably this original forest was overthrown by the river, and the soil afterwards deposited, for the channel of the stream is by no means permanent. Since the remembrance of the writer it has worn to the east or west as many as 15 rods. The uplands are under cultivation as well as the interval land, and though broken are strong; for the most part, they make ample returns to the dairyman and the shepherd. In spite of all these drawbacks the land is so productive that real estate brings a high price; and it was well said by Mr. Jones in his sketch, that the township was capable of supporting a much larger population than it has ever seen. No better crops are produced than by these farmers of Waitsfield, who take proper pains with their work. The forests which remain are a mixture of hard and soft wood, maple and spruce predominating.

The landscape is set off finely with a scalloped border, by the line of green hills, which completely inclose it as far as the eye can see; leaving, apparently, no outlet even for the river; and a few points, like those of "Bald" mountains and "Old Scrag," on the east and south; Lincoln, with its slides, and Camel's Hump on the west, and Mansfield far in the north.

On either side of this valley several fair sized brooks flow down from the hillsides, turning, or capable of turning, many busy wheels as they go. Of these the largest are Mill and Shepard's brooks on the west, and Pine brook on the east side of the river. White cottages are to be seen on either side the valley, and about there plenty of the evidences of thrift and comfort—often of taste and refinement; and the roads at all seasons are remarkably good through this whole valley. The landscape is pronounced, even by strangers, to be picturesque and charming beyond many others in Vermont, none of which are wanting in rural attractions.

Mad river received its name doubtless from the fact that—the mountain slopes being so near and steep—the surplus water is almost immediately thrown off into the brooks, and by them poured out into the river, which of course rises like sudden anger overflowing its banks, and devouring them at will.

Waitsfield is almost precisely at the geographical center of the State of Vermont, and tradition has it that the commissioners to locate the State Capital "stuck their stake" almost precisely where the village now stands. But Gen. Wait declared "he wouldn't have his meadow cut up," and so he saved the town from that honor.

INCORPORATION.

The charter is dated Feb. 25, 1782, or 5 years after Vermont declared herself a free and independent State, signed by the venerable Thomas Chittenden, governor at the time. It was then a part of Chittenden County until 1811, when embraced in the new county called Jefferson, formed afterwards, called Washington. The township was supposed to include a tract of 23,030





acres. In 1788, it was found to contain 13,850 acres, or plus 840 acres. The description in the charter runs :

6 miles, 126 chains on the northerly side ; 5 miles, 27 chains on the easterly side ; 6 miles on the southerly side ; 6 miles, 67 chains on the westerly side.

#### PROPRIETORS AND THEIR DOINGS.

The grant of the township was made "to Benjamin Wait, Roger Enos, and their associates, to the number of seventy." It was designed to have been divided into 75 equal shares (five of which were to be set apart for public use), containing 318 acres each—two lots of 150 acres each in the 1st division, and one lot of 18 acres in the 2d division. The survey of the 1st division, viz. : of that part lying west of the mountain, was made in 1788, and this survey and plot was accepted by the proprietors. But as the lots began to be taken up and cleared, it was found the survey was very inaccurate. The 2d range of lots from the Moretown line are actually 180 rods wide; the 5th range only about 120 rods wide; the 6th range 180 rods, again; also measuring the other way, there is a discrepancy, so that, for example, lot No. 107, first occupied by Mr. Salma Rider, contains 200 acres; lot No. 127, first occupied by Mr. John Burdick, only 115 acres.

This inaccuracy in the 1st division made trouble in the survey of the 2d division, which was to consist of 70 lots, of 18 acres each. This survey was made by Stephen Maine in 1795, and the work—as far as he was really responsible for it—was done well; but the gore proved to be about twice as wide as Mr. Strong had put it down. Mr. Maine relied implicitly on the field-book and plot of Mr. Strong, and made out his plot of the small lots before he entered upon the survey, and actually surveyed and marked the bounds of nearly half the lots before he discovered the mistake.

Gen. Wait, one of the commissioners, was then consulted, and he was ordered to proceed with his work as he had begun, which he accordingly did, and the lots contain about 36 acres instead of 18. The

errors of Mr. Strong's survey were at the time charged against his chain-men; but Mr. Jonathan Marshal, late of Bethel, one of the party, relates that "they kept their big jug near Mad river, and carried a small jug with them on their routes. In surveying the 4th range, the small jug gave out, and they, having run back 20 rods to avoid an impassable ledge, forgot to make allowance for it in their haste to get back again." So, probably "strong water" was the cause of the discrepancy.

Five shares were granted for public purposes; one each to the University of Vermont, the County Grammar School, the town schools, the support of preaching, and the first settled minister.

**SUBTRACTIONS.**—In 1822, "four tier of lots, including the small lots of the 2d division, on the easterly side of the town," were set off to Northfield by the Legislature. The tract lay on the Northfield side of the mountain, and in all business matters, except town business, the inhabitants naturally gravitated toward that village. In 1846, 6 lots more, aggregating 2,400 acres, making in all 8,310 acres taken from the original grant, were added to Northfield, leaving a trifle more than two-thirds of the original 36 square miles to Waitsfield. The line between the two towns is now placed as near the top of the mountain as it could be without dividing lots.

The first proprietors' meeting was held in Windsor, June 30, 1788, adjourned to meet at Timothy Lull's, in Hartland, Nov. 4, 1788. It is probable that the adjourned meeting was held, but the record does not decide it so. The next date upon the records is "Woodstock, June 2, 1789," when a tax was voted to defray the expenses of obtaining the charter and making the survey. The names of those who voted the tax are given, together with the number of "rights" which each represented:

Zebulon Lee, 17 rights; Benjamin Wait, 5; Joel Matthews, 3; John Marsh, 5; Ezra Jones, 3; Wm. Sweetzer, 3; Anthony Morss, 1; Reuben Skinner, 3; or eight men representing 40 shares out of the 70. The remaining 30 shares were sold Sept.



23, 1789, for taxes, at auction, bringing "£1, 10s. per lot." The most of them were bid off by Gen. Wait, who seems to have become from that time the "majority" of the proprietors. The records of the proprietors are exceedingly meagre, and most likely inaccurate, perhaps owing to the custom of "adjourning 15 minutes to meet at this place," just after organization, the interval being long enough to allow the clerk (to say nothing of the rest of the assembly), time to muddle his brains with toddy.

In 1790, a petition was presented to the Legislature "for a tax of 2 d. per acre," to be expended in building roads, bridges and mills in the town. This being granted, it was equally divided between the mills on the one hand, and the roads and bridges on the other. In consequence, a saw-mill and grist-mill were speedily put in running order at the south-west corner of the town, by John Heaton, known as "Green's Mills," or the "Mill Village," and later as "Irasville." Before this the people had a large birch stump which they used for a mortar to pound hominy in, and were obliged to carry their wheat as far as Hancock to reach a regular grist-mill.

#### THE FIRST ACTUAL SETTLEMENT

was made by Gen. Wait and family, in 1789. His house was erected on the meadow near the spot where his remains are buried. At that time, there was no other dwelling within 10 or 12 miles in any direction. Northfield already had a small settlement. Roxbury was occupied the same year, and Moretown the next. Fayston was an unbroken wilderness for more than 7 years after Gen. Wait came to Waitsfield. The town was not formally organized until 5 years afterward, or in 1794.

In 1795, the first representative was elected, there being then 27 legal voters in town. This representative was naturally

#### GEN. BENJAMIN WAIT,

of whom personally a few words ought to be spoken at this point. He was a native of Sudbury, Mass., being born Feb. 13, 1736. In the language of "Thompson's

Vermont" (p. 178): "He possessed a firm and vigorous constitution, and early manifested a disposition and talent for military enterprise. At the age of 18, he entered the service of his country under the brave Gen. Amherst. In 1756, he was taken by the French, carried to Quebec, and from thence sent as a prisoner to France. On the coast of France, he was retaken by the British, and carried to England. In the spring of 1757, he returned to America, and in 1758, assisted in the capture of Louisburgh. During the two succeeding years, he aided in the reduction of Canada. After the submission of Canada, he was sent, by the commandant of Detroit, to Illinois to bring in the French garrisons included in the capitulation. He performed this difficult service with singular perseverance and success. At 25 years of age, he had been engaged in 40 battles and skirmishes, and his clothes were several times perforated with musket balls, but he never received a wound. In 1767, he removed to Windsor, in this State, and constituted the third family in the township. He acted a decided and conspicuous part in favor of Vermont in the controversy with New York. In 1776, he entered the service of the United States as captain, and fought under the banners of Washington till the close of the war, during which time he had been raised to the rank of colonel. After this he was made a brigadier general of militia, and was for 7 years high sheriff of the county of Windsor.

After he came to Waitsfield, he made profession of religion, and lived an exemplary life to the last.

He is said to have been of more than medium height, stout, of very light complexion, and until the day of his death, singularly erect, whether sitting, standing or riding. One incident will illustrate something of his usual manner. His son, at that time a man of middle age, having been bitten by a rabid dog, was urged in vain by his friends to go at once to a competent physician. His delay was occasioned by the pressure of his work, and the distance which he must put between







himself and home. At that time there was no reliable physician nearer than Woodstock. The father becoming very anxious about his son, appeared on horse-back, and with another horse saddled, at his son's house, without previous notice, and said, "Young man! mount this horse and go to Woodstock with me! There is a man to take care of your farm," pointing to a man who came with him. The son obeyed without argument, and was rescued, though not without plain symptoms of hydrophobia, and a tedious summer of practical imprisonment, from which he once broke away, but was persuaded and carried back by his resolute father, who did not leave him alone much of the time.

Gen. Wait lived to the age of 86 years. His death occurred suddenly and unexpectedly, at the house of a friend, June 28, 1822. He started out that morning, saying that he had business to do, which would take him to the Center and around by the lower bridge. That after doing this, he intended to call at John Burdick's, and that after this journey was finished he should be ready to go. Arriving at the latter place, he complained of feeling unwell, and expired before his family could be notified. His remains were deposited in the grave-yard on the meadow just back of the village school-house. A marble monument marks the spot, which was paid for by subscription of the citizens, but which never satisfied them and ought never to have been accepted. Of his descendants, only a grand-daughter, Mrs. Harriet Carpenter, and some of her children and grandchildren remain in town.

In 1797, the number of legal voters had increased from 27 to 61. The check list of that year having been preserved, we are able to state that only three of these were living in 1850, while the number of inhabitants had increased to 1048, the remainder after a large district had been set off to Northfield. The vote for governor that year amounted to 182. The grand list was \$2691.68. In 1869, there were 1005 inhabitants; the vote for governor was 186; the grand list is \$3536.63; but the basis of the grand list having been materially modi-

fied, these figures do not properly indicate the growth of the town. Previous to 1842, land was listed at 6 per cent.: buildings at 4 per cent., and stock at rates according to age and value. Now the whole property is listed at one per cent. Only 10 of the family names mentioned in the voting list of 1797 are now to be found in town; five of these in the north district. In 1850, there were living 21 men and several women, whose ages ranged from 78 to 88 years. Of these only 11 family names remain. The names which for many years predominated were Joslin and Jones, the former from Weathersfield, the latter from Claremont, N. H., with a liberal seasoning also of Smiths, Stoddards and Barnards, natives of Shelburne and Deerfield, Mass. At the present time (1869,) the Vt. Register represents Waitsfield as having 1 attorney, 4 physicians, 2 clergymen, 8 merchants, 1 hotel-keeper, 1 artist, 9 manufacturers of all crafts.

The chief business of the townspeople is farming. The chief products or exports are butter and cheese, maple sugar, (100,800 lbs. of sugar were made in 1868,) wood, good horses, and cattle. There are two villages in the town, one of which monopolizes about all the mercantile business, being so situated as to make itself the natural center, not only of Waitsfield but of Fayston, and to a considerable extent of Warren. They have a daily mail from Middlesex, and several teams are running continually to and from the railroad, carrying lumber and bringing merchandise.

The Congregational church stands on an eminence neither out of nor in the village. The old brick church is the only church edifice in the village proper. The Methodist society propose to erect a new church by its side in due time.

The Hon. Roderick Richardson once offered the town a beautiful piece of land fronting on both the principal streets, for a public park and village-hall site, if they would improve it suitably. But with the same foresight which characterized Gen. Wait in refusing the State house when offered, the town let the opportunity pass, and a



dwelling-house and garden now occupy the situation. May the time come when the citizens of this town shall have higher and more tasteful ideas than to say, as one once said to the writer, "I had rather see a hill of potatoes in my front yard, any time, than a bunch of flowers."

There are no men of immense fortunes in town, but a number who have become wealthy in the popular, Vermont sense, by cultivating their farms, and by mercantile employments. There are scarcely any families who are not able to live comfortably.

WAR RECORD.

In the "memorial record of Waitsfield," prepared with great care by Rev. A. B. Dascomb, the number of our soldiers stands as follows: No. credited to the town by government, 95. No. of different individuals who served, 87. Died from sickness, 10. Killed in action, 8. Several died after discharge from disease contracted and wounds received in service.

The record of the standing of these men at their discharge or death is as follows:

The list of their names in the order of enlistment, with their ages and rank at discharge, is as follows:

C. M. Benedict, age 20, private.  
 L. D. Savage, 23, private.  
 A. H. Sellock, 19, private.  
 H. P. Stoddard, 24, private.  
 H. F. Dana, 24, private.  
 F. T. Dana, 20, private.  
 L. Ainsworth, 30, captain.  
 M. Basconner, 27, private.  
 H. N. Bushnell, 23, captain.  
 B. D. Campbell, 18, private.  
 H. F. Dike, 18, private.  
 E. H. Fuller, 21, corporal.  
 Horace B. Stoddard, 19, private.  
 J. Harriman, 29, private.  
 Manly N. Hoyt, 30, private.  
 J. F. Jones, 47, private.  
 G. S. Kneeland, 24, corporal.  
 J. P. Newcomb, 18, private.  
 E. R. Richardson, 24, sergeant.  
 D. P. Shepherd, 27, corporal.  
 M. C. Shepherd, 18, private.  
 L. M. Spaulding, 19, private.  
 S. S. Spaulding, 21, corporal.

L. T. Stoddard, 18, corporal.  
 S. Stoddard, 22, private.  
 J. E. Tucker, 20, private.  
 L. C. Peabody, 31, captain.  
 Henry C. Shaw, M. D., 30, surgeon.  
 A. Baird, 18, private.  
 O. C. Campbell, 30, 2d lieutenant.  
 J. H. Elliot, 34, private.  
 H. R. French, 22, private.  
 W. H. H. Greenslit, 26, private.  
 G. B. Hall, 18, corporal.  
 P. Haffman, 23, sergeant.  
 J. H. Quigley, 28, sergeant.  
 T. Sanders, 29, corporal.  
 H. A. Luce, 23, private.  
 D. Foster, 21, captain.  
 Almon Walker, 45, private.  
 A. D. Barnard, 20, private.  
 F. O. Bushnell, 22, corporal.  
 H. A. Dewey, 30, private.  
 J. Dumas, Jr., 22, private.  
 E. A. Fisk, 20, private.  
 D. Gleason, 42, private.  
 D. Grandy, 24, private.  
 E. A. Hastings, 23, private.  
 J. Hines, 24, private.  
 Z. H. McAllister, 21, private.  
 A. D. Page, 21, private.  
 E. F. Palmer, 26, 2d lieutenant.  
 D. Parker, 21, private.  
 L. B. Reed, 21, private.  
 O. C. Reed, 23, private.  
 J. W. Richardson, 43, private.  
 L. Seaver, 17, private.  
 D. S. Stoddard, 23, corporal.  
 T. Stoddard, 18, private.  
 C. G. Thayer, 20, private.  
 J. M. Thayer, 21, private.  
 H. M. Wait, 22, private.  
 E. Whitcomb, 19, private.  
 O. C. Wilder, 34, captain.  
 L. C. Berry, 21, private.  
 G. M. Jones, 19, private.  
 H. Jones, 37, private.  
 E. E. Joslyn, 19, corporal.  
 J. L. Maynard, 29, private.  
 T. T. Prentiss, 19, private.  
 J. N. Richardson, 18, corporal.  
 L. S. Richardson, 20, private.  
 S. L. Kneeland, 18, private.  
 J. W. Parker, 17, private.  
 J. Sterling, 19, private.





W. H. Stoddard, 18, private.  
 V. B. Mix, 18, private.  
 J. C. Williams, 20, private.  
 A. B. Durkee, 21, private.  
 J. P. Davis, 40, private.  
 W. E. Dana, 18, private.  
 G. P. Welch, 21, private.  
 T. Burke, 21, private.  
 J. H. Somerville, 21, private.  
 E. L. Allen, 19, private.  
 E. McCarty, 20, private.  
 E. A. Burns, 18, private.

Captains, 4; 2d lieutenants, 2; sergeants, 3; corporals, 11; privates, 50; sharp shooters, 7; cavalry men, 4; battery men, 2; Signal corps, 1; surgeon, 1; hospital steward, 1; musicians, 1; in the navy, 1.

Of those who were natives of this town, who went into the army from other places, there are, 2 1st lieutenants, 1 cavalryman, and 12 privates.

Most of these belonged to the famous "Vermont Brigade" of the "6th corps," who have received from a grateful country the honor which they thoroughly earned in many a march and battle.

The amount of money expended by the town in procuring men for the army service: Paid for bounty to nine months' men, \$575; to 1 year's men, \$2,700; to 3 years' men, \$6,202; to substitutes, \$700; subsistence for volunteers, \$18.10; transportation for same, \$38.50; services of selectmen and agents, \$199.53; total, \$10,433.13.

The history of the 13th regiment (of 9 months' men) who did good service in guarding the Occoquan during the winter of '62-'63, and also at the battle of Gettysburg, where they constituted part of Gen. Stannard's command, has been pleasantly told by Lieut. E. F. Palmer, in a neat little work entitled, "Camp Life."

#### TEMPERANCE.

Though it deserves to be said that the early settlers of Waitsfield were remarkably moral, and many of them pious men, yet they were accustomed to partake of the intoxicating cup at will, and some of them a great deal too freely to be called at that time temperate men, and accidents

resulting from intoxication and brawls were of altogether too frequent occurrence, and those who sold grew rich, while those who drank, many of them, "ran down."

In 1821, at a "raising," one of the men, Wheeler by name, became intoxicated, and in wrestling, or "trying tricks," fell, and was carried home insensible, and found upon examination, to have expired, after being laid on his bed.

This accident startled the whole community, and the faithful pastor improved it by preaching a bold teetotal sermon at his funeral, from the text, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Soon after, Dea. Moses Fisk sent out invitations to the raising of a barn, with the proviso that no liquor would be furnished. There was, of course, a large gathering, with the ill-concealed design of forcing the Deacon "to cave in." Matters proceeded as usual in such cases, until the moment for raising the ridge-pole, or "rum-pole," as it was called. The order was given to take it up. The men bent to the task, but strange to say, suddenly found themselves devoid of all strength, and after several trials, and much sham accusation of each other for not lifting, gave it up, saying they could do nothing more until strengthened by liquor. It was late in the afternoon, and the master-workman became so nervous that he finally begged of the Deacon to allow him, at his own expense, to provide a treat. This was refused, and the Deacon, a man of candor and decision worthy of a pioneer, made a short address, thanking his neighbors for what they had done, repeating his conviction that drinking was altogether a sin and an injury to the whole community, referring, with emotion, to Wheeler's death, and then saying, "It will be a serious inconvenience to me if this barn is not finished. I cannot, however, do what my conscience forbids me to do, and if this frame cannot go up without rum, every stick of the timber shall rot on the ground where it lies."

After a moment's pause, some one said, "The deacon is a good fellow, and lets up with it," and they went ahead with such



eagerness that in a short time the work was done, without any accident or broil, and the people went home all of them well satisfied, and the most of them convinced. Though it is true that afterwards several "raisings" were scenes of riot and accident, yet many were teetotal gatherings. Some who were weakly on the right side were strengthened, and those who did provide rum for such occasions, only aided the temperance movement by furnishing further demonstration, that the use of rum was evil, and only evil. The earliest movement looking towards organization was the formation of a temperance society about 1828; the members of which pledged themselves "to report faithfully every month what kind and quantities of liquors they drank, with the dates and the company." This became at least the occasion of a reform in a few men, while others even withdrew from the society, loving darkness rather than light. A member of that society who "never had anything to report from first to last," said to the writer: "At that time I would no more have signed a teetotal pledge than I would have sold myself for a slave." A teetotal pledge was, however, signed by a number of the people, and a society maintained for some time before the "Washingtonians" appeared, and the people as a majority have adhered to the subsequent measures of reform which have been inaugurated in the State, the old license and late prohibition statutes. The Good Templars have dealt with rumsellers with a spirit worthy of the children of those who sleep in the old cemetery on the hill.

#### SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

The inhabitants of Waitsfield—though for the most part uncultivated men and women—were by no means people of grovelling ideas. They understood the advantages of free schools, and soon after the organization of the town, four school districts were laid out, in which (at least in a few years) schools were regularly maintained. These were the North (No. 1). The East and Center together, the village, and one mill-village district. At the present time the number of districts is seven,

though they at one time numbered ten. The diminution is owing mainly to the union of districts. the village now sustaining a graded school. The number of scholars is far less now than it must have been 30 years ago. The early settlers and their children, too, raised up large families, and were a good example of those spoken of by one of the sons of Waitsfield:

"For, in their sweet simplicity, they hold  
A child is better than a bag of gold."

At the present time there are but the fewest few of large families, and these are become a by-word.

Several noted men, among whom is President Kitchell of Middlebury, began their public career as teachers in these district schools. It has been customary also for many years to secure an undergraduate of some college as teacher of a "fall school"; but those who would obtain a classical education are obliged to go out of town for it.

In the records of the North district, (No. 1,) we find some curious specimens of voting and recording, which serve at once as exponents of the parliamentary training of the clerk—of the poverty and trials of the people—and for the diversion of those who have enjoyed the better advantages for which the untaught fathers laid the foundation:

Dec. 22, 1797. Article 2d was put to vote to see if the District would hire Mr. S. Smith, to keep school, and engage him 10 bushels of wheat, and passed in the negative.

Sept. 25, 1812. Voted to have three months schooling the ensuing winter, and that the committee be instructed to procure a teacher capable of teaching reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar and geography, provided such an one can be got for any other pay than money. (This was during the "second war," so styled.)

The school-house, where this business was transacted, was built of logs, badly lighted, and with a huge old fireplace at one end, in which to consume enormous quantities of green wood during the cold winter days without much hope of giving an even temperature to the room. Often 30 cords of wood were burned in a single winter. Yet here were trained up a com-





pany of men and women who have nobly served their generation. They had no mathematics beyond the four fundamental rules and the "rule of three," yet some of them became by their own native wit leaders in public business, and teachers of considerable merit. One of them pressed on until, in middle age, by the light of a chip fire, he had mastered Cicero and Virgil, having no Lexicon but that in the old Latin Reader, and no teacher except occasionally the "master" who came from college to teach the winter school. It should be said, however, that he had text books that were half "pony" at least.

This man (Ithamar Smith, now deceased) was especially thorough in his explanations to his pupils when a teacher. One of these explanations was so simple and perfect, that we must not pass it by. He studied intensely one evening to find some actual demonstration of the rule that "the area of a circle is equal to that of a parallelogram, the length of which is equal to half the circumference, and the width to half the diameter of the circle." He finally hit upon this. Taking a pie to school for his dinner and cutting it fine, he laid the pieces together "crust to point." The reader will perceive that one half the crusts made the length of the parallelogram, the width of which was the length of a piece of pie, or half the diameter of the pie. No better demonstration could be made than this.

Another of these almost self-taught men was once assisting a company of surveyors, and when they ran off the lots in diamond form, "because the lay of the land made it easier to do so," he declared they were cheating the owner. They looked down upon him from their scientific heights, and haughtily demanded the proof. He quietly took a straw, and bending it into a square—having hold of the opposite corners—said "call that a square lot." Then drawing out a little on the corners, which he held, so as to make a diamond of it, he said, "you say there is just as much land there now?" They replied "of course there is." Drawing it up until there

was nothing left, he asked triumphantly, "now is there?"

There have been too many instances of rebellion among scholars, and dismissal of teachers who lacked muscle; and in a proportion with the frequency of these things, a lower grade of scholarship in all the schools.

#### INCIDENTS.

Many of the early inhabitants were certainly very credulous and superstitious. A daughter of Mr. Samuel S. Savage, "dreamed three nights in succession, that there was a large pot of Captain Kidd's money buried near a ledge of rocks, a few rods east of the house." This occurred not far from the year 1800. It never entered the heads of any of the family, or their neighbors, to ask how Capt. Kidd should chance to be burying money 200 miles and more inland, when only savages inhabited all the wilderness; but they "had heard it said that whatever was dreamed three nights in succession always came to pass," and so Mr. S. commenced digging for the money. The same tradition enjoined—as indispensable to success—that no word should be spoken during the process, and that some one should sit by and read the Bible all the while. So Nancy sat on the rock reading, and Sam, the son, was sometimes with them. After digging several days, "in stabbing down his crowbar, he hit the identical pot. He distinctly heard the money chink, held his bar on it that it might not escape him, and beckoned to Sam to come and dig it out." Unfortunately, however, he could not make Sam understand, and at length Sam spoke! Instantly the pot of money moved away, and he could never find it again. The most ridiculous part of the matter, is the fact well attested, that Mr. Savage believed all this, as long as he lived, and was never ridiculed out of it.

Somewhat in the same line (though more successful) was the dream, thrice repeated the same night, of a Mr. Rice (late Dea. Rice of Granville,) then in the employ of Gen. Wait, (not far from 1795,) that he went to "the cove," (now part of the mill pond at the village,) and saw a moose,



which he shot and killed, and that a man came along just then with a sled, and carried the game in for him. When he arose, having told this to the family, Mrs. Wait took down the old "Queen's arm" and handed it to him with the powder-horn and bullet pouch, when he repaired to the spot, saw the moose, brought him down with a single bullet, and returned with his booty on the sled of the man from Warren, all according to programme. This large story is too well attested to leave any room for contradiction.

The writer has many an instance in mind of the scrupulous care with which these grandmothers made sure of the "signs" in all important domestic matters, such as picking the geese and "setting" all sorts of bipeds, making soap, butchering, taking a journey, commencing a piece of work, and one even believed "it would spoil a hasty pudding to stir it against the sun."

It seems strange that sturdy men and women, who were not afraid of bears and wolves, and who could ride on horseback "double," and each carry a child to meetings—who were possessed of such sterling common sense in most matters—should be so completely under the powers of such petty superstitions.

#### ACCIDENTS.

It is sometimes remarked that "dead trees fall silently and in still weather."

This was illustrated in the case of Wm. Joiner in 1805. He was riding on horseback through a piece of woods near the house now owned by Dea. David Phelps, when the trunk of a decayed tree fell across his path in such a way as to scratch the pommel of his saddle, and instantly kill his horse, while he remained entirely uninjured. There have been 15 cases of accidental deaths since the organization of the town:

In 1810, Lewis Taylor, age 10, was drowned in the flume of a grist-mill; Enos Wilder, age 35, killed by a falling tree, and Gilbert Wait, Jr., age 3, killed by falling through an aperture in the chamber floor.

In 1815, a child of Daniel Skinner was smothered in bed.

In 1820, a child of Ezra Jones fell from the arms of a girl who was tossing it in sport, and was killed.

In 1821, Wm. Wheeler, age 55, was killed by "trying tricks" at a raising.

In 1822, Joseph L. Carpenter, age 14, was killed by the falling of a tree.

In 1830, John Kimball, age 3, was drowned in a channel washed out by the flood, which had previously swept away the dwelling; Eliza A. Stoddard, age 6, killed by the kick of a horse.

In 1833, Mrs. Simeon Pratt, age 38, supposed to have died in a fit.

In 1836, Luther Fairbanks, age 30, drowned while bathing.

In 1842, child of C. Joyce, smothered in the bed.

In 1848, John O. Shaw, age 11, was hung in a school-house window when trying to climb in.

In 1850, James D. Bushnell, age 21, drowned while bathing.

In 1865, Howard Bruce, age 4, drowned in a spring.

There have also been several cases of sudden deaths from occult diseases, and 4 cases of suicide.

#### RELICS OF INDIANS.

This territory was once occupied as hunting grounds by a portion of the "St. Francis" tribe of Indians, if the traditions of a relic of the tribe can be relied upon. Many traces have been discovered of their occupancy, which seem to show that they had vacated the valley only a few years before the coming of Gen. Wait.

In 1808, Samuel Barnard, while at work in his sugar-place, found a two-gallon brass kettle turned upside down on a rock. The kettle only a few years ago was in use in his family. Another was found not long after on the lot lying east of Mr. Barnard's, and not very far from the spot where the first one was found.

In 1822, as Ebenezer Barnard (son of Samuel), and Rufus Childs, were clearing a part of this same sugar-place, they found a gun and pistol, tomahawk, and about a quart of beads, made of something resembling brown earthen ware. The stocks of the gun and pistol were rotten, but the





barrels, though rusty, were good, and have done good service since. The gun was found sticking out of the ground, and in digging to see if some chief had been buried there, the pistol and beads were found at a depth of about 2 feet.

#### GAME.

For many years after the settlement of the town, the deer were quite plenty in the forests, as well as trout in the streams. The bears and wolves proved a serious annoyance to the settlers. Neither fields of grain nor flocks of sheep were safe unless watched continually. But bruin soon became very cautious.

In the year 1804, Dea. Moses Fisk shot and killed a large bear Sabbath night, that was about to spring at one of his sheep, in a pasture very near his house. It was jokingly said that "the bear had too much confidence in the Deacon to suppose he would shoot him Sunday, and so exposed himself carelessly." The Deacon was an excellent shot, and it is said that he brought down six bears—several of them under hazardous circumstances, and that he never missed but one that he fired at. He also killed many deer, one of them with an axe, at a time when the snow was very deep, with a little crust on the top, and the writer has the antlers upon his carving knife and fork. His wife, also, shot an insatiable hawk, that "did not come when the Deacon was at home," and it is probable that both did no more than their share, but other facts and names are lost.

In 1797, the wife of Dr. Pierce, living near Moretown line, saw a deer pursued by the hunters approaching the house. Judging that he would pass through a narrow gap between the fence and the house, she caught up an axe and stationed herself by the corner of the house, and when the deer made its appearance, actually inflicted a mortal wound upon him; but as soon as she had done so, became affrighted and fled to her chamber, "and almost went into hysterics."

In the spring of 1821, a wolf was discovered near the house of James Joslin, and was turned back into a strip of woods,

where he was speedily surrounded by the yeomanry, who rallied at short notice, and at length shot by Dea. Moses Fisk. The bounty of \$20 was given to the minister, Rev. A. Chandler, and with it he made himself a life member of the Bible Society.

In March, 1855, another wolf was surrounded and killed in the same forest. The writer was one of the boys who waded through the deep snow to assist in his capture, and had the privilege of sending one bullet after him, with perfect safety to the wolf. He was first discovered by Pardon Bushnell, Esq., making for the East mountain, and first surrounded in the piece of woods lying between the river and the old common. It is not a little remarkable that, after breaking out of this ring, he should have been secured at all, and that in less than four hours after; weight, 87 lbs. Several marksmen lay claim to the honor of bringing him down. It probably belongs to Cheney Prentice, Esq. It was sold for \$5, and bounty, at auction, and the same distributed (by vote of the captors), to the poor of the town.

#### FIRES.

There have been 15 fires in town which amounted to total loss of the buildings, and in most cases an almost total loss of contents. They may be classified thus: distilleries, 2, prior to 1818; stores, 1; shops, 4; barns, 2; dwellings, 6. Of the causes of fire, it may be said that the store was set on fire late in the evening, while the clerk was drawing some alcohol to cook eggs with, for a few select companions. In several cases the dwellings were set on fire from ashes left in wooden vessels; in others, the cause remains unknown. One barn was burned by lightning. Only once (1846), have two such casualties occurred the same year.

The first fire of all occurred in 1794, and in the coldest of the winter. It was the dwelling-house of Daniel Taylor, the Elder, and was situated on the meadow now owned by Comstock Prentice, Esq. The story of the fire is so pleasantly told in rhyme by Mr. Smirh before mentioned, that we give it entire, only adding that the settlers did all they could for the families,





while one went to Shelburne, Mass., and procured supplies which could not be had nearer, and which were gladly given by the former neighbors of the two families :

#### THE BURNING HOUSE.

Among the many fictions new  
This story old is strictly true;  
To snatch it, sadling, if I can,  
From dark oblivion, is my plan.

When Waitsfield mostly was a wild,  
As I—an aged man—a child,  
When woods were 'round the dwelling near,  
And huntsmen shot the bounding deer,  
When flowed Mad River full of trout,  
And boys could fish a plenty out,  
My father left a distant town  
To settle near the river down.  
No land had he but forest wild,  
No home to shelter wife or child:  
My Uncle Taylor kindly shared  
With us the house he had prepared;  
Two rooms, with roof of bark, it had,  
And sheltered cousins very glad;  
Nine little children were we all,  
The oldest being only small.  
Our happy quiet did not last  
Till the first Sabbath eve was past:  
The men that evening were away,  
The children mostly sleeping lay;  
Some flax, in bundles very dry,  
Was o'er the entry lying high;  
My mother near with candle came,  
And lucklessly it caught the flame;  
Her shriek I still remember well,  
Such shrieks as sudden panic tell.  
In vain she tried to stop the fire;  
She only made it blaze the higher.  
The rapid flames began to pour  
Bright blazes on the entry floor,  
And through that fiery entry lay  
The only chance to flee away.  
Just time the mothers had to throw  
Their naked children on the snow,  
Then count them rescued o'er and o'er,  
Lest there were missing one or more—  
When did a mother ever yet,  
In fright or haste, her child forget?—  
Poor "Penny" met a harder doom,  
And puss within that burning room.  
Without intent were blankets four  
Snatched with the children; nothing more.  
Their garments all were left to share  
The fate of other comforts there.  
The absent fathers saw the flame,  
And with some neighbors, breathless came—  
Too late,—they sped but to behold,  
With joy, the children in the cold.  
Stay, reader! hear my story through,  
Since all I have to tell is true!  
While high the fire terrific blazed,  
The people o'er the river gazed,—  
"What could that light, portentous, mean,  
Above the trees at distance seen?"  
Off sped the men the cause to see,  
And offer aid if need should be;  
The women grouped and talked with fear,  
Expecting direful news to hear.  
"His children left alone," they said,  
"Have fired the house above their head."  
But when my sorrowing mother came,

And not a child was left in flame,  
Although in bitterness she cried,  
And seemed as if she might have died,  
They thought the trouble very small,  
Since house was nothing—life was all!

Now let us make the moral out  
(For facts their moral have, no doubt);  
Think, when misfortune gives you pain,  
It might be worse, and not complain.

#### FLOODS.

In July, 1830, the rivers overflowed the whole valley, sweeping away every bridge in town, and doing incalculable damage to the crops, and not a little to the mills. The grist-mill was left on an island, by the gulling of the flood. The dwelling of a Mr. Kimball was swept away, but the family escaped. This house stood on the bank. Mr. K. had lately buried his brother, with whom he was in company. He used to say, that in the night he awoke and listened to the roar of the water, and the thought once arose that he ought to get up and see if all was safe; but he had so little apprehension that he did not arise. In a few moments, he saw his brother standing by the side of the bed, and bidding him get up and flee. He declared he was wide awake, and saw the form vanish away. He arose, and finding there was danger, removed his family; and as he stepped out on the door-stone, last of all, the house began to settle away, and in a moment or two, went over into the flood.

In July, 1850, another flood swept through the valley, doing not so much damage as before, yet enough to make it remembered well. In July, 1858, there was another of a singular character, as all the damage was done by the brooks on the west side, or by the river swollen by their torrents. It would seem as if a huge cloud must have emptied itself all at once upon the hills of Fayston, although there were, indeed, heavy rains at the same time in the east part of the town. The thunder-shower (for such it was,) lasted only a few hours. It was the 21st birthday of the writer, and he remembers very well how, for over half an hour, a sheet of water poured from the roof breaking into drops, or pailfulls, about one foot below the ends of the shingles. "Shepard's Brook" (the





most northerly [of the] streams having its rise in Fayston,) swept out for itself various new passages, and, in one case, uprooted and pushed for over a mile into the river and across it, upon the meadow nearly half an acre of heavy timber. A Mr. Learned, living near the mouth of the brook was reading his paper in the evening, when he "heard something bumping against the floor," and on going to the cellar found it to be his meat-barrel floating about. The water was then running across his lower doorstep, and the roaring of the brook showed its fury, while examination proved that there was no way of escape from the house. Though several buildings were swept away, this house the most beleagued of all, was spared.

Dea. Parker relates that at 5 o'clock there was not a foot of water in the brook, and at 10 o'clock he stood and saw his barn carried away by the flood. A number of farms suffered severely by the washing away of the soil.

In October, 1869, another flood swept through this valley, reaching within a little over a foot of the high water mark of 1830. The town were obliged to raise an extra tax of 60 cents on the dollar to meet the damages. The crops of corn which were not already housed were swept away, and the breaking out of the river at the west end of the dam above the grist mill seriously endangered the village, and carried away a shop belonging to J. W. Richardson, Esq. It will be remembered that the water rose at three separate times, being highest on Monday, the 4th of Oct., but nearly as high on Monday the 11th, and high enough to awaken much anxiety on Wednesday, the 13th. Pine brook made a clean sweep of her 7 bridges, and many other bridges in the town followed suit. This high water was predicted by astronomers in the month of June, and their calculations did not fail except by less than 24 hours.

Also quite frequently, when the river breaks up in the spring, the ice will clog up, and the meadows will be flooded, washing away fences and sometimes the soil itself. And the poorer class of bridges,

built in an early day, were often carried off in this way, but for many years no river bridge has been thus lost. Mad river without this turbulence, would be like the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out.

#### ECCLESIASTICAL.

In 1794, a town committee was appointed to "lay out a meeting-house and yard." The site chosen was what is still known as "the common"—an elevated plain near the center of the original township. It consisted of about 9 acres, and the title was conveyed to the town in 1796. Five acres was the gift of Ezra Jones, Esq., on condition that, "if the town *moved the centre (?)* from that place" the title should be void. As soon, therefore, as the "new meeting-house" at the river village was occupied, and the town voted to hold town-meetings at the river, the heirs took possession of their portion. The remaining four acres, purchased for "£1, 10s." of a Mr. Savage, are still common. The forest which covered this lot was chopped by a "Bee," in 1797, and the ground was then let out in parcels to be cleared, each workman having the right to take two crops of grass for his remuneration upon the lot set apart as a common. The burial ground was not fenced until 1809.

The first proposal as to building a house of worship, was to erect one jointly with the school-district on the east side of the common, with the understanding that when both parties were better able, the district should buy out the town, and the town should build a regular church edifice. After the frame was up and partly covered, the district receded from the engagement; and in due time, the frame was removed to the valley, where it has been used as store and dwelling-house until the present time—known as the "Lewis Holden" house.

This apparent drawback was after all a stimulus to the religious interests of the town. It hastened the erection of a suitable meeting-house—an imposing structure of the olden style, bearing date 1807, altogether innocent of paint inside, and for some years of stoves; but extravagant in the amount of 7x9 glass, which rattled away at every suggestion of a breeze. It had



the usual high pulpit, towering over the "deacon's seat,"—the capacious gallery, and for many years the ample sabbath assembly. On the Society's record, we read among other recommendations of a committee, that a certain proportion of the money derived from the sale of the pews should be paid at the beginning, as it would be needed for nails, glass, "and rum for the raising."

#### CONGREGATIONAL.

The Congregational church, which controlled this house, was organized with 11 members in 1796. Rev. Ebenezer Kingsbury, of Jericho, officiating. Others were gradually added to it, and it became strong enough in 1801 to settle a pastor; and from that time has been the strongest religious body in the town.

Rev. William Saulsbury, the first pastor, was a young man, well educated, and able in the pulpit, but singularly wanting in those qualities which secure the respect and affection of the people when outside the pulpit. He received the "minister's lot" as a settlement portion, and \$166.67 the first year, it being agreed that the salary should be increased as fast as the grand list on the society's roll increased, until it should amount to \$266.66. The ordination services took place in a booth built for the occasion, on the site chosen for the meeting-house, Rev. Mr. Lyman, of Brookfield, preaching the sermon from I. Tim. 4: 16.

During the 68 years since the ordination of Mr. Saulsbury, 19 ministers have at different times had charge of this church. Of these, the longest pastorate was that of Rev. Mr. Chandler, 20 years; the next longest, that of Rev. Charles Duren, 10 years, and next, that of Mr. Saulsbury, 9 years.

#### LIST OF MINISTERS.

Rev. William Saulsbury, 1801-'9; Amariah Chandler, 1810-'30; Guy Sampson, 1831-'31; Joseph Marsh, 1832-'34; B. F. Read, 1835-'35; S. G. Tenney, 1835-'37; A. Flemming, 1837-'38; Preston Taylor, 1839-'42; Calvin Selden, 1843-'4; James Hobart, 1845-'49; Charles Duren, 1849-'54; L. H. Stone, 1855-'56; Andrew Royce,

1856-'57; C. W. Piper, 1857-'57; C. S. Smith, 1858-'58; Robert Stuart, 1858-'59; Mr. George Pierson, 1859-'60; Rev. A. B. Dascomb, 1860-'67; J. H. Babbitt, 1868.

Five men have commenced their ministry with this people. None have finished their ministry here. But the impression of the character and doctrine of Mr. Chandler is not yet obliterated. A fact which shows how good it is for a people to keep a good and faithful pastor, and that the length and the success of a pastorate bear some relation to each other.

#### THE DEACONS OF THE CHURCH.

John Barnard, 1796-'13; Moses Fisk, 1801-'47; David Phelps, 1813-'23; Jedediah Bushnell, 1825-'66; Ithamer Smith, 1830-'48; Isaac Hawley, 1836-'48; Lyman Fisk, 1844—; David M. Phelps, 1866-'69; Henry N. Bushnell, 1866—; Edward A. Fisk, 1866—.

There have been several seasons of revival among this people,—the most marked (considering their permanent fruits,) being that in 1817-18, under Mr. Chandler's preaching, and that in 1865-6, under Mr. Dascomb's. In each case 35 members at one time,—and most of them by profession, and others at intervals afterwards. It deserves to be said that, while this church may not have accomplished more than the average of country churches, it has done much good in training up those who have labored much in other places. Those who have gone out as laymen to strengthen other churches would make, in point of numbers, a large parish, and in point of influence a strong one, while it can show a longer roll of professional men—nearly all ministers—than the majority of Congregational churches in Vermont. Its membership from the first until now amounts to 500. The Congregational Society was formed under the old law. All the voters in town were members of it, unless they individually withdrew, by certifying to the town clerk "that they did not agree in religious opinion with a majority of the society." This statute was repealed at Woodstock in 1807, and in





consequence, the society dissolved and formed a voluntary association, assuming all the rights and immunities of the old one. In 1845, a new meeting-house was built in the outskirts of the village, and dedicated, Rev. Mr. Gridley of Montpelier, preaching the sermon from Haggai 2: 9.

The question, whether to "repair or build at the river," was one that divided the feelings of the people seriously. By vote of the society, it was at length submitted to the judgment of three men, viz: John L. Buck, and two others, beside the agreement being that their decision should be accepted as final. They decided naturally enough that the society "should build at the river." The results of this difficulty were that the new house was located just out of the village instead of in it, on elevated ground, toward the old common; so that the people who have to walk to church, find it quite a task to climb up from the village, and on week days, men drive by to the grist-mill and the postoffice, not always getting back to the meeting they should attend, or at least not until late, and evening meetings must go begging at private houses.

This partiality for the consecrated spot also led at length to the building of a small edifice out of the ruins of the old one, as a sort of union house, "to be used for funerals, evening services, &c."

After the building of the new church, the society became greatly reduced. For various causes, one after another withdrew their names from the roll; preaching was sustained by subscription only, and there were only about 12 men who could be depended upon to bring up arrears. These were obliged to pay a sum equal to five times all their other taxes combined, for years. It is needless to say that these were earnest and pious men; and it is pleasant to record the fact at length they have seen better times. Much credit is due to Rev. A. B. Dascomb for his patient continuance with this people in times when it was exceedingly difficult to raise a salary, he having come to them when they were lowest, and by the blessing of God, leav-

ing them in 6 years, able and willing to give a pastor a good support.

#### METHODIST.

The first Methodist preaching in the town was probably about 1804, and doubtless a class was formed soon after. The town was first embraced in the Montpelier circuit, as were also the towns of Middlesex, Moretown, Warren and Fayston. Their first church edifice was erected in the mill village in 1833, was remodeled, a spire added, and painted in 1852. In 1845, the circuit was abolished, and Waitsfield and Warren became a station. In 1868, Waitsfield became a separate charge. The names of those who have been preachers, with the dates of their pastorate, as far as they can be ascertained, are as follows:

Rev. Wilder Mack, Abel Heath, John Cummings, Nathan Howe; John Nason, 1835; Moses Sanderson, I. D. Rust, Cyrus Liscomb, H. J. Wooley, Wm. Blake, O. M. Legate, Harvey Hitchcock, H. T. Jones, D. Willis, P. N. Granger, A. J. Copeland, C. W. Kellogg, W. J. Kidder, P. Merrill, N. W. Scott, H. Webster, C. S. Buswell, L. Hill, B. P. Spaulding; N. M. Granger, 1868; F. M. Miller, 1869. The present number of members is 62, and probationers 8.

A good little anecdote is told of the times of Elder Mack. There was strong prejudice at that time in all the land against this denomination, over and above the objection that it was dividing the feelings and interests of the people. One Sabbath, Dr. Stoddard and wife, who lived at the extreme south of the valley, were unable to attend meeting. The children, however, went, and learning before they arrived at home that Elder Mack was going to preach at the school-house in their neighborhood, they roughly reported to their parents that "there was to be a lecture at the school-house that evening." So the mother (who would not have countenanced a Methodist meeting by any means), went with the children to the lecture. Finding it was not their own minister, but supposing it was some one





with whom he had exchanged, she became intensely interested in the discourse. On their return, the eldest son asked, "Mother, what *ism* do you call that, Congregationalism or Methodism, or what?" "I call it 'gospelism,'" was her frank reply; and then she was informed that she had listened to Elder Mack. Of course the son was rebuked for concealing the fact, but whether it tended to relieve her of her prejudices, or not, we do not know. Her husband, however, though a most exemplary and strict man, lived and died believing himself "a reprobate"—a belief that Methodism might probably have corrected, had it been understood.

There have been several religious awakenings in the history of this church, the most marked of which was in 1835, when many were numbered as believers. Of this class, one has become a useful minister of the Gospel (Alonzo Hitchcock), and several others were most exemplary Christians while they lived.

#### UNIVERSALIST.

This society was formed Dec. 30, 1830. Quite a number of the prominent men in town entertained this doctrinal belief, and soon after the dismissal of Rev. Mr. Chandler from the pastorate of the Congregational church, they organized by electing Roderick Richardson, moderator; Cyron Burdick, clerk; R. Richardson, Daniel Thayer and Matthias S. Jones, prudential committee.

Rev. Mr. Fuller was their first preacher, and his first services were held as early as 1826. They were held in school-houses, barns, or wherever it seemed best or was necessary to hold them. It was claimed once (though some of the leading Universalists did not countenance it), that they had a right to the use of the Congregational meeting-house at least one-fourth of the time. This caused considerable discussion and trouble, and at length brought about an arbitration, in which several distinguished lawyers were employed and several days consumed. Their decision was emphatically against the claim of the Universalists, who abided by it like men. Six years later, the society (in con-

nection with the Baptists), erected the brick church in the village, a good substantial structure with about 250 sittings. Of this the society owned nearly three-fourths, but the agreement was that every man who owned a pew would occupy the house one Sabbath in the year for such religious worship as was agreeable to himself.

The names of the different preachers were as follows: Rev. John E. Palmer, 1826-1837, (occasionally); Rev. Edward Brown, 1838-1840 (statedly); Rev. John E. Palmer, 1844-1848 (pastor); Rev. T. C. Eaton, Rev. G. S. Gurnsey, 1844-1856 (occasionally); Rev. C. C. Thornton, 1856-1862 (pastor); Rev. John Gregory, 1862-1869 (occasionally).

During the pastorate of Mr. Thornton, a Sunday school and Bible class was sustained, and the congregation was comparatively large.

#### BAPTIST.

A Baptist church of 11 members was organized May, 1835, Rev. John Ide, of Waterbury, assisted at its formation, the Methodists opening their meeting-house for the services. He also preached during that year one fourth of the time. Rev. Wm. M. Guilford preached over half the time during 1836, and after an interval, Rev. Friend Blood became pastor. His term commenced in 1838, or 1839, and continued until Rev. P. Amsden afterwards preached, and the church attained considerable strength, but declined, and was practically broken up in the exciting times of Millerism.

The records were unfortunately lost in the burning of the house of Roswell Richardson, who was clerk of the church from its organization to its extinction. Quite a number of the members afterwards joined both the Congregational and Methodist churches.

It is said of Rev. Mr. Blood, that in preaching, he was very dull for the first two hours, but eloquent and powerful for the third hour.

#### EPISCOPAL.

In 1853, while the Universalists were not occupying their house of worship, an effort





was made by Hon. R. Richardson, Jr., and others, to establish Episcopal worship, which resulted in the repair of the house, the formation of a church of 52 members, and the installation of Rev. John E. Johnston as pastor. - These services were continued until 1855, when Mr. Johnston removed, and Mr. Richardson took up his residence in Montpelier.

Rev. J. H. Hopkins, Jr., afterwards endeavored to look up the lost sheep, and Rev. Mr. Hazzard labored earnestly with them for a time; but the society has now very few members remaining, and no stated services. It depends upon the Northfield rector for occasional ministrations.

#### WESLEYAN.

In 1853, Rev. Lyman Prindle came into town, and preached at the Union house, on the old common. In a short time, a society was formed, and he was engaged as its pastor. His labors were continued without interruption until 1860, when he was succeeded by Rev. L. C. Partridge, who supplied until 1861, when he was succeeded by Rev. John Dolph, 1862; then Mr. Prindle returned and preached until 1864.

The church at first consisted of 10 members. In 1854, 16 were added. In 1855, 15. The whole number was 44. An interesting Sabbath school was maintained during all this time, and the average congregation was about 100.

The organization is still maintained, but no Sabbath services are held by it. "The distinctive features (in the words of a member) were to take higher and more radical ground on the reforms of the day—slavery, temperance, and secret-oath-bound societies."

#### REPRESENTATIVES.

Benjamin Wait, 1795-1799, 1801, 02; Stephen Pierce, 1800, 11, 14; Bissel Phelps, 1803, 07; Amasa Skinner, 1808-10, 12, 13, 15; Edmund Rice, 1816; Matthias S. Jones, 1817-20, 24-26; Ralph Turner, 1821, 22, 23; Jennison Jones, 1827, 28; Jason Carpenter, 1829, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36; Thomas Prentice, 1832, 33; Roderick Richardson, 1837, 38, 39, 50, 51; Hiram Jones, 1840, 41, 42; 1843, no choice, 9

ballots, 44 do, 16 ballots, 1845, do, 14 ballots, 1849, do, 4 ballots, 1852, do 7 ballots, 1853, do, 3 ballots; 1861, do, 9 ballots; Ithamar Smith, 1846, 47; Benjamin Reed, 1848, 54, 55, 67, 68; Ira Richardson, 1856, 66; Lyman Prindle, 1857, 58; Pardon Bushnell, 59, 60; J. H. Hastings, 1862, 63; D. M. Phelps, 1864, 65; Hiram Carleton, 1866.

#### PHYSICIANS

who have practiced in town (in the order of their coming,) Stephen Pierce, — died; William Joslin, —, died; Fred T. Miner, —, removed; Orange Smith, —, died; G. N. Brigham, —, removed; E. G. Judkins, —, died; Geo. W. Nichols. —, removed; E. G. Hooker, W. A. Jones, J. M. VanDeusen.

#### CLERGYMEN

who were raised up in town. Those marked with a star are now dead; those with a dagger, deposed:

Perrin B. Fisk,\* Baptist, last residence in Wardsboro, Vt., Joel Fisk,\* Congregational, Plainfield, Harvey Fisk,\* Congregational, New York City, brothers; Henry Jones,\* Congregational; Ezra Jones, Presbyterian, New York; Matthias Joslin,\* Congregational, Missionary to the Indians; Chandler Wilder, Congregational, Vermont; Hiram Freeman, Wisconsin; Alonzo Hitchcock, Methodist, Montpelier; Pliny F. Barnard, Congregational, Williamstown; \*Rufus Child, Congregational, Berlin; Lucius Barnard,† Congregational, New York; Perrin B. Fisk, 2d., Congregational, Peacham; Silas Jones, Methodist; Harvey Bates, Unitarian, Massachusetts.

The following are the names of men well known in the State who were born and raised up in Waitsfield: Gurley Phelps, M. D., Jaffrey, N. H.; Edwin Jones, M. D., deceased; Henry Shaw, M. D., deceased (surgeon 1863); Walter A. Jones, Waitsfield; Ezra Bates, M. D.; Norman Durant, attorney, deceased; Luther L. Durant, attorney, Montpelier; Hon. Geo. N. Dale, attorney, Island Pond; Hon. Chas. H. Joyce, attorney, Rutland; Edwin F. Palmer, attorney, Waterbury; Hon. Roderick Richardson, deceased; Hon. Roderick Richard-





son, Jr., Montpelier: Hon. Hiram Jones, Waitsfield; Hon. Calvin Fullerton, Waitsfield; Hon. Ira Richardson, Waitsfield; Hon. J. H. Hastings, Waitsfield.

The following are the names of those who have practiced law in town, and have had more or less influence upon its history: Hon. William Pingry, Perkinsville; Benjamin Adams, Esq., deceased; M. H. Sessions, Esq., — Hale, — Bane, A. V. Spaulding, Esq.; C. F. Clough, Esq., Hiram Carleton, Esq.

#### PROMINENT MEN.

JENNISON JONES, Esq., was born in Claremont, N. H., Jan. 1, 1777, and removed in early life to Waitsfield, where he resided until his death. He enjoyed only the common school advantages of those days, but was one of those "self-made men" for which this country has been noted. As a young man he was a very successful teacher. He filled nearly every town office with perfect acceptance when in the prime of life, represented the town in 1827-'28, and was especially interested in the history of the town, and accurate in dates and figures. This sketch of Waitsfield (as will be seen from the introductory note), has been prepared with ease by reason of his labors and writings. He married, Dec. 26, 1802, Miss Philany Holmes, and reared a large family. He died Dec. 22, 1852, at the age of 75.

ITHAMER SMITH, Esq., was born in Shelburne, Mass., June 6, 1787, and came with his parents to Waitsfield in 1893. Allusion to his talents and a specimen of his poetry appears elsewhere in these pages. He was a leading anti-slavery man, and his experience was that of too many who so early espoused the cause of justice and humanity. Good men did not see as he saw, and were tardy to come up to his ground, and designing men scorned him and his cause, which made him sometimes almost bitter against them all. He removed to New York State in 1856, and died at the residence of his daughter, in Feb. 1862.

Among his children (who all obtained at least an average education), we notice Chauncey, an attorney, and once partner of Hon. Edward Everett, in Boston.

Luther L., a successful teacher in the southern part of Massachusetts, and now a resident of New York.

Frank B., a graduate of U. V. M. in the class of '63, now a civil engineer in the interior; and Abigail H., wife of Rev. Chas. Cavern, of Lake Mills, Wis.

Hon. JASON CARPENTER was born Aug. 15, 1772, at Coventry, Ct. Like many of his contemporaries, his school days were few, but his education practical. He came to Waitsfield in 1818, and was identified with its business and interests for the rest of his active life. He served as judge of probate for the County 2 years, and as representative from 1829 to '31, and from '34 to '36, inclusive. He married, — 18—, Miss Betsey Ingraham, by whom he had 6 children, of whom one finds mention in another place, the wife of Hon. Hiram Jones; while the record of another, Charles, as a most successful teacher, though cut off in the midst of his usefulness; and of another, George H., as a successful business man in Racine, Wis., must not be passed in silence.

MATTHIAS S. JONES, Esq., was born in Claremont, N. H., Apr. 12, 1778, and removed to Waitsfield at an early date. He was one of the more prominent men of the town, filling in turn the most important offices in the gift of his townsmen; was justice of the peace more than 30 years, and town clerk for half that period, and represented the town in 1825, '26, '27. He was twice married—Aug. 28, 1807, to Miss Betsey Joyslin, of Waitsfield, and May 26, 1836, to Miss Mary Prentice, of Weathersfield. His death occurred June 25, 1851. He reared a comparatively large family—all children of the first marriage—of whom are L. W. Jones, Esq., a successful merchant of Waitsfield, and a man of decided public spirit.

EDWIN JONES, M. D., who was born June 3, 1825, at Waitsfield, studied for a time with Dr. D. C. Joslin, of Waitsfield, and attended one course of lectures at Woodstock, graduating at length at Pittsfield, Mass., and practicing at Orange, Vt., for three months, and at Vershire and Stratford the remainder of his life. He mar-





ried, Oct. 18, 1852, Miss Mary A., dau. of Rev. Elisha Brown, of Montpelier, and precisely 2 years later died at Strafford, a bereavement not only to those who knew him as a relative and friend, but to those who had learned to know him as a beloved physician.

Hon. HIRAM JONES, another son, who was born June 26, 1808, and whose opportunities for acquiring an education were confined to the common schools of his native town, and who made such improvements of these scanty means, that he was called into places of public trust at an unusually early age. Besides almost continually serving as justice of the peace, and frequently holding other offices of public trust, he represented the town in 1840, '41-'42, and was assistant judge of the county court from 1855 to 1857. (Died in 1872.) He married Oct. 6, 1835, Laura L., daughter of Hon. Jason Carpenter. Six children were the issue of this marriage, of whom Walter A., is a resident physician of his native town, and George M. lost his life in the first battle of the Wilderness,—the only one in which he was engaged. His enlistment was just at the time Gen. Grant took command in the 2d Reg. U. S. S. S.

Hon. RODERICK RICHARDSON, Sr., was born in Tolland, Conn., in 1779, and in early life removed to Waitsfield. By trade he was a saddler. He was for many years postmaster of the town, and the owner of the principal store; was assistant judge of Washington Co. court 2 years. The date of his marriage to Miss Anna Davis we are unable to ascertain. Two sons and two daughters were born to him, the youngest, Hon. RODERICK RICHARDSON, Jr., who as a man of enterprise and wealth was for many years a leader in the business of Waitsfield. He was born Aug. 7, 1807, at Hartford, Conn., but obtained all his schooling at the common school in Waitsfield; was representative in 1837-38, '39, 50-51, and senator from Washington county 4 years; assistant judge of Washington county for one year; elected by the joint assembly, and declined a re-election. He is an earnest Episcopalian, having

united with that church not far from 1853; at the present time is senior warden of Christ Church in Montpelier; one of the standing committee of the diocese of Vermont, and a delegate to the Triennial Convention of the Episcopal church of the United States at the sessions of 1862, '65, '68. [See Montpelier, 546.]

RODERICK JULIUS RICHARDSON, son of the above, was born in Waitsfield, May 31, 1840; graduated at Norwich University, and was made paymaster in the U. S. Navy, Sept. 1861. Being ordered to the "Harriet Lane," he was captured with the remainder of her crew off Galveston, Tex., Jan. 10, 1863; was paroled that spring, and participated in the capture of New Orleans, the first siege of Vicksburg; went through the Mississippi River Campaign; was in the "South Atlantic Squadron" at Charleston, S. C., and in the "North Atlantic Squadron" on board the Steamer "Wabash" before the Wilmington fight, and participated in search for the "Alabama" and "Florida." In 1865, he received his discharge, and was elected cashier of the First National Bank, Montpelier, and is now a commission merchant in Boston. He was married Jan. 5, 1865, to Miss Faddie Ware, of Boston.

B. H. ADAMS, Esq., was born in Tunbridge, in 1810, and after receiving the usual common school education, studied law, and opened an office in Waitsfield, where he practiced until his death, which occurred in Oct. 1849. The writer remembers him as he appeared at leisure in the store a year or so before his death. He was a man of medium height and rather robust in appearance, of light complexion and pleasing address. It is said that he never made a plea of any extended length, but rarely failed to make a deep impression on all those who heard him. "He was a rare man," says one who was conversant with him, "gifted, eloquent, persuasive, powerful, genial, generous, benevolent to a fault, the best advocate I ever saw or heard." A full history of the man would of course present other than the professional side of his character, and would be obliged to state what we are





sorry to say is too common in the history of talented men, that while they rule their fellowmen by their great abilities, they are too often the slaves of intemperance or gaming. The ready wit with which he sometimes secured a favorable verdict when he had by far the hardest side, is well remembered, and could we afford space for story-telling of this kind, we should provoke many a hearty laugh from the reader.

ORANGE SMITH, M. D., was born Jan. 27, 1796, at Brookfield. He was a graduate of Randolph Academy, and of the medical department of the U. V. M. He also studied medicine with Daniel Washburn, M. D., and attended lectures for some length of time at Dartmouth. He commenced at Starksboro; soon removed to Williston, and after one year of practice there removed to Waitsfield, and continued in practice there until near the time of his death, in 1863. Besides being a good physician, he was a very public spirited man, and one whose influence, especially in religious matters was not small. He entered into the practice of Dr. Miner, who was about to remove from town, and for some time lived on the farm now owned by T. G. W. Farr, Esq., but subsequently removed to the village. He married (Mar. 2, 1825,) Miss Lucy Hatch of Brookfield, by whom he had three children, only one of whom (Charles D. Smith, Esq.,) is now living.

#### MEETING AT WAITSFIELD ON THE ADMIS- SION OF TEXAS.

"The undersigned respectfully request all the inhabitants of Waitsfield to meet at the brick Meeting house on Thursday, the 17th day of August inst., at three o'clock P. M., for the purpose of expressing their views in relation to the propriety of having Texas annexed to the United States as a *slave holding* territory. We consider this a subject of great importance, and earnestly invite a general attendance.

Waitsfield, August 7th, 1837.

Wm. Bragg,	Jonathan H. Brown,
Zana Moore,	Rod'k Richardson,
Jenison Joslin,	D. C. Joyslin,
Horace S. Jones,	Azro D. Rice,
Hiram Joslin,	John W. Steele,

James C. Fargo,  
Stephen P. Joslin,  
Samuel Chipman,  
Matthias S. Jones,  
Robert Leach,  
S. H. Cheney,  
Orange Smith,  
L. W. Truman,  
Wm. M. Pingry,  
R. Richardson, Jr.,

W. M. Guilford,  
Dan. Richardson,  
H. Cardell,  
J. B. Bisbee,  
Roswell Morris,  
Benjamin Reed, Jr.,  
Isaac Hawley,  
Wells Hitchcock,  
Harry Jones,  
Charles Jones.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the preamble and Resolutions together with the proceedings of this meeting, signed by the chairman and Sec., be forwarded to each of the pol. presses at Mont. for publication, also to each of our Senators and Reps. in Congress.

Whereas, it is the privilege of the citizens of a republican government to assemble together for the purpose of expressing their sentiments on all subjects in which they are interested, and it becomes their duty so to do, when questions of great moment are proposed, especially when in the decision of those questions the rights and liberties of American citizens are involved. And whereas slavery, in the language of a distinguished senator from Virginia, is a "moral and political evil, an evil in the eye of religion, philanthropy and reason," and is opposed to both the letter and spirit of the Declaration, "that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and is a gross violation of that divine law which commands "whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so to them." And whereas, the annexation of Texas to this country would have a tendency to perpetuate the system of slavery, and endanger the liberties of our country by subjecting us to discord at home and conflict abroad:

Therefore resolved, that however much we may differ with regard to the immediate abolition of slavery now existing in the United States, we are of one mind on the question of adding thereto by annexing Texas or any other slave holding territory to our Government.

*Resolved*, That we are opposed to the annexation of Texas to the United States at the present time, under any circumstances whatever, and that we will use our utmost exertion in a lawful and constitutional manner, to prevent such a result.

*Resolved*, That we are in favor of equal rights, and would gladly welcome the time when the enjoyment of political, civil and religious liberty shall be co-extensive with the vast family of man.

*Resolved*, That it is the duty of the press to advocate and contend for the doc-





trine of equal rights, and oppose the association with our government of any territory whose constitution, or constitutions, are based upon any other principle.

*Resolved*, That every consistent person that is opposed to slavery in the abstract, must necessarily be opposed to annexing Texas to this government, and that it should be the study of the American people how best to rid themselves of the evil under which they are now labouring, instead of making addition thereto.

*Resolved*, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to oppose to the utmost of their power, every attempt to annex Texas to the United States."

[The foregoing was contributed by Chas. A. Smith, of Barre, a grandson of Orange Smith, of Waitsfield. Orange Smith drafted the above resolutions.]

DAVID CARLISLE JOYSLIN, M. D., was born at Springfield, Vt., May 15, 1799, pursued a classical course at Randolph Grammar School; graduated at Castleton Medical College in —; commenced practice in Waitsfield in 18—. His practice has been extensive and successful, not in Waitsfield only but also largely in Warren and Fayston. At present he has laid aside the regular practice of his profession, and is more engaged in practical farming. He married Oct. 26, 1852, Miss Jane E. Carpenter, a great grand-daughter of Gen. Wait, by whom he has had three children, of whom only one is now living. Dr. Joyclin died in 1874.

Hon. IRA RICHARDSON was born in Waitsfield Oct. 6, 1816, and enjoyed the usual advantages of its common schools; represented the town in 1856, and again in 1866, and served as assistant judge of Washington county in 1868-'69. For many years his health was exceedingly poor, yet he has done a great deal for the business of the town by engaging in mercantile and manufacturing pursuits, as well as farming. He is the owner of mills that turn off a large quantity of lumber, chiefly clapboards, and of a tannery. He married April 6, 1843, Harriet F. Chapman, and has raised up a family of sons who are now in active business.

Hon. JONATHAN HAMMOND HASTINGS, was born in Waitsfield, Feb. 12, 1824, and has been a resident of the town until the present time, and for many years entrusted with a portion of the town business. He filled the office of deputy sheriff and constable for 10 years from 1846, to the entire satisfaction of the people; in 1856-'7 was high sheriff of the county; represented the town in general assembly in 1862-'63, and was elected senator in 1869. He has also been connected with the Waterbury bank as director for 13 years. He married Nov. 1, 1848, Miss Ellen M. Merriam of Johnson, by whom he has had 6 children.

EDWIN F. PALMER, ESQ.,

of Waterbury, was born in Waitsfield, Jan. 22, 1836. In his boyhood, he exhibited more than usual capacity as a scholar, and began a course of classical study while still a youth, reciting to Rev. Charles Duran, pastor of the Congregational church, and afterwards pursuing his course at the Northfield Institute; and graduating with honor at Dartmouth, in 1862; and becoming a member of the college church during his course of study. He then studied law with Hon. Paul Dillingham, and has practiced in Waterbury since, with the exception of 6 months service in the customhouse at Island Pond, and 9 months service as 2d Lieut of Co. B, 13th Vt.; during which time he kept a diary, and on his return, published a neat little work entitled "Camp Life," which is prized by his comrades and their friends, as an accurate and pleasant history of their campaign. He was married June 15, 1865, to Miss Addie D. Hartshorn.

REV. AMARIAH CHANDLER,

was a native of Shelburne, Mass., a graduate of U. V. M., and a theological pupil of Rev. Dr. Packard of Shelburne, Mass. He was settled in Waitsfield in 1810, and dismissed in 1830. During all this time, he was a faithful pastor, a kind sympathizing friend, and a man of courage and power in every direction. Several times in this sketch, we have had occasion to refer to him, and the savor of his name is still sweet in all this region. He was both





eloquent and witty, but he used the latter mainly as a weapon of defense. Woe to the man that attempted to oppose or entrap him in any matter, a very few measured words would shut his month. His gentleness could not be exceeded, but he had the most perfect contempt for all display. He was short and stout in person, and in habits quite refreshingly rustic. The best picture that could be made of him, would be a delineation of that scene at his own door, (after he had removed to Greenfield, and received rather thanklessly the degree of D. D.) when a dapper young man approached him, as he was washing his bare feet at the pump after a morning's labor in his field, and inquired for "Mr. Chandler." "I am Mr. Chandler," was his quiet reply. "But I mean Rev. Mr. Chandler," said the stranger. "Yes, sir, that is my name." But still obtuse, the young theologian persisted in saying, "but I mean Rev. Amariah Chandler, D. D." "Yes, sir, they sometimes call me all that," said the doctor, quietly enjoying the discomfiture of one who mistook him for a boor.

The writer remembers of his rising to preach, (when on a visit to his daughter only a few years ago,) and saying measuredly, "The sermon I am about to preach will perhaps be remembered by some of you who are here to-day. If you do not remember it, it will make no difference to you. If you do, it will make a great difference with me, for I shall be glad to know that you remember so well."

In his later days, he preached a sermon in which he acknowledged some change of views on doctrinal subjects. This sermon the writer has not been able to lay hold of now, but from his recollections of it, (having read it when a boy) he believes it to have shown Mr. Chandler to be precisely with the majority of Congregational ministers at the present time; and though it created some discussion, and met with disapproval from some of his people whom he had trained so well to think and judge for themselves, yet we suspect it would prove to be a crowning glory to him, as showing that he was an inquirer after truth,

even at three-score-and-ten, and certainly the humility and candor of it, in frankly expressing his almost lifelong mistake as he then thought it, was noble.

When he reached his 70th birth-day, he resigned his pastoral charge, saying to his people, that he did not intend to leave them, and was ready to minister to them still, but he meant to put it out of his power to pastor them when he should become childish. Thus the matter stood until his death. It would probably have been hard to have convinced his people that there was any danger of his getting childish after that.

We cannot help saying, O that he had remained in Waitsfield, while he lived! The people were very loth to part with him in 1830, but they did not fully realize what they were losing, or they would have utterly refused to let him go, and resisted until they had compelled him to remain.

Rev. PERRIN B. FISK, son of Moses, was born July 6, 1792, and in youth and early manhood followed the trade of a saddler, residing at Montpelier, where he married (May, 1815), Miss Azuba Blaisdell. His talents were rather above the point of mediocrity, but he had small opportunities for study. After his conversion he became very anxious to do more good, and in a short time was led to change his views upon the subject of baptism, in consequence to leave the Congregational for the Baptist church, by which order he was immediately licensed to preach, and was at length settled in Wardsboro, as pastor of the Baptist church. The late Rev. P. H. White was at this time one of the young men who sat under his preaching. His remembrance of the man, as given to the writer, was of a corpulent and jolly man, who enjoyed to sit on the store steps and smoke and tell stories, both of which he could do well. As a preacher, he was able to compare fairly with the average men of his denomination. He was the father of three children, two of whom were sons. Moses, the eldest, was a shrewd and smart, but unprincipled young man, who lived fast, and died early, leav-





ing a young widow and babe, both of whom are now dead, and Thomas was sheriff in Washington Co., N. Y., from the time he was 21 until he led his men through the bloody campaigns of the Potomac as lieutenant and captain of artillery.

Rev. JOEL FISK, brother of the above, was born Oct. 26, 1796, and lived at Waitsfield until the age of 20, when, becoming pious, he gave himself up to the work of the ministry, and at length graduated at Middlebury, in 1825; studied theology with Rev. Charles Walker, of Pittsford, and at the age of 30, was ordained pastor of the Congregational church in Monkton. He was almost reprimanded while in college for his persistence in revival work, and this fact is a true exponent of his whole professional life. He labored successively and successfully in the following places, viz.: New Haven, Vt., Essex, N. Y., Montreal and Phillipsburgh, C. E. (as it then was), Irasburgh and Plainfield, Vt., where he died Dec. 16, 1856. He was devoted to his work, searching in his style, and a man of decided literary taste. He married, Oct. 15, 1826, Miss Clarinda Chapman, by whom he had 7 children, of whom are Harvey, of the celebrated firm of Fisk and Hatch, in New York City, and Pliny, president of the American Pottery Co., of Trenton, N. J.

Rev. HARVEY FISK, brother of the two last noticed, was born Apr. 12, 1799, and had in early life the reputation of being a smart, wild, but very truthful boy. At the age of 14 he was apprenticed to the late Gen. E. P. Walton, of Montpelier, to learn the printer's trade. Here he made friends and acquired much useful knowledge, but withal, had such a vein of fun and frolic and an aptness at practical joking in him, that he provoked the momentary indignation, as well as the regard, of those who knew him. Having become a Christian here, he gave himself up to the work of the ministry, graduating at Hamilton College in the class of '26, and at Princeton Theological Sem. Subsequently, during his studies, he worked his way with the composing stick, and was the compiler,

and for some time the publisher, of the "American Sunday-School Union," and the compiler and publisher of the "Union Question Books" for Sunday-schools. He died very suddenly at New York City, after less than a year of ministerial labor. He married, Feb. 17, 1829, Anná M. Plumb, by whom he had one son, Harvey Jonathan, who is at present an accountant in Detroit, Mich., thus maintaining his widowed mother.

Rev. PLINY FISK BARNARD was born in Waitsfield, Nov. 9, 1820; pursued a course of classical study at Jericho and Montpelier; graduated at Dartmouth in 1843; at Bangor Theological Seminary in 1846; was settled over the Congregational church in Richmond, Me., in 1847, and after a pastorate of 9 years, removed to Williamstown, Vt., where he continues to exercise the pastoral office with much acceptance. He married, Nov. 4, 1846, Julia, daughter of Rev. James Hobart, of Berlin, by whom he has had 7 children.

Rev. PERRIN B. FISK, son of Deacon Lyman, and grandson of Deacon Moses, was born July 3, 1837; studied at Barre Academy and at Bangor Theological Seminary, where he graduated in 1863, and was immediately settled as pastor of the Congregational church at West Dracut, Mass; in 1865 was dismissed, and removed to Rockport, where he supplied the First church during the European tour of Rev. W. H. Dunning, the pastor; 1866, was settled as pastor of the Congregational church in Peacham, Vt., where he still resides; served as chaplain of the Senate of Vermont in 1869; otherwise chiefly distinguished as the author of this sketch of Waitsfield. In 1863, he was married to Miss Harriet L. Bigelow, of Waitsfield, a great-great-grand-daughter of Gen. Wait.

Rev. ALONZO HITCHCOCK was born at Waitsfield, Nov. 29, 1814; pursued his studies mainly with a resident clergyman, and has been stationed in the following M. E. churches, viz.: Albany, St. Johnsbury, East Walden, Bethel, Gayssville, Randolph, Corinth, Bradford, Proctorsville, Plainfield, Cabot, E. Burke, Middle-





sex, and is now acting as agent of the Methodist Conference Sem. at Montpelier.

MATTHIAS JOSLIN was born in Waitsfield, Aug. 19, 1806, and finished his limited education at Royalton. In 1830, he entered upon missionary work as a teacher among the Choctaws. He had charge of the boys' school at Mayhew until the removal of the tribe by government to the new country assigned them west of the Mississippi, which took place in 1832. Mr. Joslin then returned to Waitsfield, and remained during the summer and fall. In September he married Miss Sophia M. Palmer, and with her returned to the Indian country, residing at Dwight among the Cherokees, and when he was about to return to his contemplated field among the Choctaws, was removed by death, Nov. 21, 1833, after an illness of only 11 days. He was a good man and his end was peace. [Mr. Joslin's widow married a Mr. Newton, and is now living at San Antonio, Texas.—E. A. F.]

IRA BUSHNELL, son of Dea. Jedediah Bushnell, was born June 11, 1826; fitted for college at Johnson, and graduated in Burlington in 1856. He was a young man of deep piety, and of much promise, who had consecrated himself to the work of the ministry. But being not the readiest, though one of the most persistent of students, and a very athletic young man, who had been accustomed to labor on a farm, his health during his college course was undermined. Soon after he graduated, he was attacked with hemorrhage of the lungs, and gradually wasted away until June 16, 1858, when he died.

GURLEY A. PHELPS, M. D., was born in Waitsfield, June 30, 1822; pursued a course of classical study at Montpelier and of professional study at Castleton, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. Took up his residence in Jaffrey, N. H., where he has had an extensive practice, and attained a wide reputation as a skillful physician. He married April 10, 1851, Miss Adaliza Cutter, who deserves mention as a poetess of much merit. Some time after her death he was married again (Nov. 3, 1858,) to Miss

Nancy P. Stoughton. He united at an early date with the Congregational church, and the testimony of those who know him best is, that he is both the Christian gentleman and the beloved physician.

There are quite a number of other noted men who were reared in this town; educated in her common schools and whose purposes for life were undoubtedly formed for the most part while residents, a part of whom entered into their business or began to study their profession while here. We are able in this number to mention Hon. GEO. N. DALE, at present president pro tem. of the Vermont senate, and Col. C. H. JOYCE of Rutland, both of whom grew up to manhood in Waitsfield; NORMAN DURANT, Esq., whose promising life was lost in the search for gold in California in 1850, and LUTHER L. DURANT, (brother of the above,) at the age of 8 years became a resident of Waitsfield, and may, therefore be said to have received his early education in that town. And this with an occasional term at the select school comprised all his course of general study. At his majority he entered the office of B. H. Adams, Esq., of Waitsfield, and commenced the study of the law, completing his course with C. W. Upham of Barre. He then practiced at Waitsfield from 1852 to October, 1855, when he was invited by Hon. Paul Dillingham to enter into partnership at Waterbury for 5 years, and at its close had hardly opened an office himself before the same offer was repeated and accepted, which being fulfilled in December, 1866, he removed to Montpelier and formed partnership with Col. F. V. Randall. The court docket shows that their practice must now be very extensive, indeed. Reference to his initials will bear out the pleasantry that he has the title as well as the practice; while at Waitsfield (viz., in 1853) he married Miss Julia M. Tenney of Dalton, N. H., with whom he still lives, and by whom he had 2 children.

The father of these two successful men passed away in 1868; a much esteemed citizen and devoted Christian, and a genial and intelligent man. The mother still resides at Waitsfield.





We may also mention Hon. G. D. RICE, of Wisconsin, and Hon. EDMUND RICE, both of whom were reared and had engaged in business in Waitsfield before they became pioneers in the West, and whose subsequent record we have much reason to be proud of, and Hon. WM. PINGRY, who spent a number of his best years in town as an attorney, and who had a commanding influence in the town while he remained.

We must crave the forbearance of our friends in advance, on account of the almost certainty that some names which ought to be noticed will be overlooked, and defend ourself slightly by remarking that quite a number of the circulars we sent out to obtain accurate information have not come back to us again. We have no reason to suppose that our work will amount to more than a beginning, for the history of Waitsfield is making yet, and in closing this sketch, which, though more laborious than we anticipated, has yet afforded us much pleasure, as treasuring up much that ought to be saved, but that would in a few years have been lost. We ask our young friends especially to make such use of the means of education, take such a stand on all the questions of the day, and ground themselves upon such noble principles, that whoever takes up the historic pen we are now about to lay down, shall be able to say at least that the old stock has not degenerated. In some particulars it will be difficult indeed for them to obtain a better record than that.

#### WAITSFIELD, 1869-1882.

BY DEA. E. A. FISK.

In the preceding pages, Rev. P. B. Fisk has brought the history of Waitsfield down to 1869.

Since that date, events have occurred which ought not to be left unrecorded.—Two tasteful and commodious churches have been erected in our village: the fire-fiend has broken loose and destroyed more property than during all the previous history of the town; a radical change has been made in our common school system,

and there are many minor events which should not be omitted.

#### CHURCHES.

In 1870, the Methodist church was built at a cost of about \$7500. On the basement floor, is a large room for Sabbath schools, lectures, &c., besides smaller rooms for other purposes; while above, is the audience room, capable of seating about 300 persons. It is a good church, tasteful and convenient, and reflects great credit upon the builders, who overcame many difficulties in its erection.

It was dedicated in Feb., 1871. The following is a list of the pastors of the M. E. church since 1869: Rev. J. Hamilton, 1870-71; Rev. E. Folsom, 1871-74; Rev. J. A. Sherburne, 1874-77; Rev. C. H. Leverton, 1877-78; Rev. Geo. L. Wells, 1878-81; Rev. C. P. Taplin, 1881 to the present time.

In 1874, the Congregational church, which stood upon the edge of a plateau, east of the village, was taken down, and a new church built in the village, using the materials of the old as far as practicable.

Rev. J. H. Babbitt pastor of the church, was the architect, and every part of the structure bears witness of the care and skill with which his labors were performed. Several good judges have said that there are very few churches in the rural towns of Vermont that will compare with it. This church, likewise, has its audience room above, and convenient rooms, for other purposes, on the ground floor. Cost about \$8600, exclusive of several hundred dollars in gratuitous labor. The building committee were able to report every dollar of expenses provided for soon after the dedication of the church in July, 1875; and what is better, the building of this church was not the cause of the least division or hard feeling among the members of the society, as is too often the case.

Rev. J. H. Babbitt continued to be the pastor of the Congregational church till Dec., 1876, when, much to the regret of his parishioners, he resigned, and was succeeded by Rev. Stephen H. Robinson, who was ordained in Sept., 1877, and is the pastor at the present time.





In Sept., 1881, Pliny B. Fisk, a member of this church, who graduated at U. V. M., and studied at Yale Theo. Sem., was ordained here as an evangelist to labor on our Western frontier.

UNIVERSALIST.

This society has had occasional preaching since 1869, and for a year or two previous to 1875 they held regular services. Rev. John Gregory, of Northfield, and Rev. W. H. Walbridge, occupying the pulpit on alternate Sabbaths. Some time in 1874, Mr. Walbridge was ordained here, but at the close of the year, removed to Stowe.

SCHOOLS.

The legislature of 1870, passed an act enabling a town to abolish its school districts, and bring the schools under the direct supervision of the town. In accordance with this act, Waitsfield, at its annual meeting in 1871, voted to adopt the town system of schools. It was a new measure in this State, and was regarded by many of its friends as an experiment, which they undertook with many fears, and in the face of a strong opposition. Two years later, the town voted to continue it by a very small majority; but after ten years of trial, its success was such, that when the proposition was made to return to the district system, nearly three fourths of the votes cast were against it. Schools are maintained in the same places as formerly, with the exception of a very small one which has been dropped from the list.

The school year, however, has been lengthened from two terms, or 24 weeks, to 3 terms, or 30 weeks in all. There has also been greater permanence of teachers, and the school-houses are much improved. It is but just to add that the efficient supervision of Dr. W. A. Jones, for 7 years past the chairman of the board of school directors, has done much toward the prosperity of our schools.

TEMPERANCE.

A Good Templars Lodge was organized in 1868, and has held weekly meetings to the present time. By this means, some who were intemperate have reformed;

many young persons have become thoroughly established in temperance principles, and public sentiment on the subject has greatly improved.

FIRES.

It is mentioned by Rev. P. B. Fisk, that from the settlement of the town to the time of writing his history, 15 fires had occurred; but from that date to the present time there have been 12 fires of considerable dimensions, besides two cooper-shops and several sugar-houses. In three cases an entire set of farm buildings were destroyed; in one, a house and small barn in the village; in four or five cases houses were burned, and on four occasions a barn or barns were consumed, and in two of these, cattle were burned.

As early as 1877, it began to be suspected that all these fires were not accidental. In April of that year, unoccupied buildings belonging to Mr. John Towle were burned, and this was followed in about a month by the destruction of Geo. Folsom's barns and 18 cows, and the next night L. K. Hooker's house and barns were burned. The latter could be accounted for, but the others could not.

Next in October, 1878, Mr. T. G. W. Farr's house and barns were burned under circumstances that were very mysterious, to say the least. There appeared to be no way to account for it except as the work of an incendiary, and yet it hardly seemed possible that any one could be so bold as to set a fire early in a moonlight evening, in the position where it was first observed.

In October, 1879, on the exact anniversary of the fire at Mr. Farr's, another large fire occurred which was equally inexplicable. Several barns belonging to Mr. L. R. Joslyn were burned. A pair of 4-years old oxen weighing over 4,000 pounds, and that had just taken the first premium at the State Fair, were also destroyed. This fire was the scene of desperate but successful effort to save Mr. Joslyn's house and other buildings. After exhausting the supplies of water near at hand, a line of men was formed reaching to the river a third of a mile away, and thus buckets of water came to hand so rapidly that by the





aid of a small force-pump and a favorable wind the fire was stayed. About a week after this Mr. R. H. Barnard's barns were burned early one morning. It then seemed certain that some one living among us was the author of this destruction, but the evidence against any one was so meagre that no arrests were made. The next week, however, occurred the largest fire of all, and it proved to be the final one of this series.

All of Mr. E. W. Bisbee's buildings (just in the edge of Moretown,) were destroyed, and a man was seen running away from the barn just before the fire broke out. A court of investigation was held, and the evidence pointed in a certain direction so strongly that the person implicated finally confessed to having set six fires during two or three years previous. We will not attempt to immortalize his name by recording it here, but will simply say that he is now serving out a sentence of 25 years at Windsor.

Since then we have had no fires of any importance, but those times of excitement and fear made so strong an impression upon the people of Waitsfield that even at the present time they can scarcely be recalled without a shudder.

It is sometimes said that lightning never strikes twice in the same spot, but Mr. O. H. Joslin had a barn burned by lightning in 1868, and again in 1876 another built upon the site of the old one was burned by the same cause, and a year or two after a tree very near where these barns were burned was struck, and a cow standing under it knocked down; also a tree standing in Mr. Joslin's pasture has been twice struck by lightning, it being set on fire the last time.

There has been a very noticeable improvement in the character of farm buildings in this town during the last few years. One large barn is now the order of the day, instead of the cluster of small ones that one used to see. This plan has been followed almost without exception where barns have been burned, thus giving us an example of the way in which good may come out of evil. And many others are

rebuilding upon the same plan, so that according to present appearances it will take but a few years longer to work a complete revolution in the appearance of barns in this town.

#### INSTANCES OF LONGEVITY.

The records show the death of so many aged persons in town since 1867, that some statement in regard to it seems to be demanded. During that period 33 persons have died at an age exceeding 80 years. Of this number, 18 were more than 85, and 8 more than 90 years old. The names and ages of the latter are as follows:

Henry Dewey, aged 96, died in 1875; Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett, 94, in 1873; Job House, 94, 1874; Miss Charlotte Smith, 93, in 1882; Thomas Prentiss, 92, 1877; Daniel Skinner, 91, 1877; Avery Sherman, 99, 1873; Michael Ryle, 90, 1880.

Mr. Thomas Prentiss, whose name appears in this list, was a great reader, and until a short time before his death there were very few persons in town who kept themselves better informed concerning the events of the times, political and general, or whose opinions in regard to the same were more intelligent and discriminating.

#### PHYSICIANS.

Dr. D. C. Joslin died in 1874; Dr. E. G. Hooker remained here till 1881, and acquired an extensive practice, but has removed to Waterbury; Dr. C. F. Camp came here in 1881; Dr. J. M. Van Deusen (homœopathist), is still with us.

#### LAWYERS.

Hiram Carleton removed in 1876, and John W. Gregory came here in 1879.

#### MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE.

*Representatives.*—1870, Hiram Carleton, chosen by a unanimous vote of the town; 1872, H. N. Bushnell; 1874, M. E. Hadley; 1876, '78, L. M. Tyler; 1880, W. A. Jones.

*Senators.*—J. H. Hastings, of this town, was State Senator in 1869 and 1870, and Ira Richardson in 1876, the latter dying during his term of office.

R. J. Gleason has been town clerk for more than 25 years, and postmaster since the first election of Lincoln.





## TOWN CLERKS.

Moses Heaton, from March, 1794, to March, 1796; Benjamin Wait, Jr., 1796 to 1802; Salah Smith, 1802 to '4, '5 to '7; Ezra Jones, 1804 to '5, '7 to '10; Edmund Rice, 1810 to '16, '26 to '27; Matthias S. Jones, 1816 to '26; Jennison Jones, 1827 to '28; Lewis Holden, 1828 to '36; Wm. M. Pingry, 1836 to '41; Orange Smith, 1841, '43, '45 to '46; Jonathan Morse, 1843 to '45; Cyrus Joslin, 1846 to '48; Cyrus Skinner, 1848 to the time of his death in 1855; R. J. Gleason, June 22, 1855, to March, 1882. Mr. Gleason was appointed by the selectmen to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Skinner, and has been elected by the town at every annual meeting since that time.

## ACCIDENTAL DEATHS.

At least two have occurred since Rev. Mr. Fisk made out his list in 1869.

Mary Ann Riley, a child of James Riley, aged 4 years, was killed by a cart-body falling over upon her, Sept. 16, 1876.

Seth Chase, aged 10 years, a son of Timothy Chase, who was living at Thomas Poland's, was drowned in Mad River while bathing, June 5, 1881.

## REV. PLINY FISK BARNARD.

Mr. Barnard was dismissed from the church in Williamstown in 1870, and was soon settled over the Congregational church in Westhampton, Mass., where he remained 3 years, when he was dismissed, and after a few months became acting pastor of the Congregational church in Westminister, where he remained till 1880, when he removed to Ashburnham, Mass., where he resides at the present time, (1882) but has preached for the past year at South Royalston, Mass.

## REV. PERRIN B. FISK,

was dismissed from the Congregational church in Peacham in 1870, and removed to Lyndonville, where he remained until Dec., 1874. During his ministry at that place, a church was organized, and a house of worship and a parsonage built. The plans for these buildings originated largely with Mr. Fisk, and his cares were greatly increased by his supervision of their

building, but when completed they were very highly spoken of by the best judges.

After leaving Lyndonville, Mr. Fisk removed to Springfield, this State, and remained as pastor of the Congregational church in that place 2 years, when he was dismissed and accepted a call to the Congregational church in Lake City, Minn., where he now resides.

## REV HENRY PARKER

(BY C. J. SARGENT, OF WARREN.)

was born in Waitsfield. His parents were Stephen C. and Angeline Parker. In his younger days he was a clerk in stores at Warren, Brookfield and in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and from there he went to Meadville College, Penn., in 1874, where he graduated in 1877, and then went to Quincy, Mass., and to other places preaching on trial, and finally settled in Nashua, N. H., with a large salary. He is a fine speaker and a deep thinker, of the Unitarian theology.

ELLEN H. SAMPSON, daughter of Rev. Guy C. Sampson, was born in this town, as she wrote the Compiler, from Lapeer, Mich., in 1858. Miss S. has been many years a poetical correspondent for several of the current papers and magazines. Her father, a well-known anti-slavery and temperance editor and lecturer, died in the West some years since. He edited a temperance paper for some time, published at Woodstock, which town will doubtless have some more definite account of him and his family.

From the Vermont Record.

AMARIAH CHANDLER was born in Deerfield, Mass., Oct. 27, 1782, the youngest, and last survivor, of 9 children of Moses and Persis (Harris) Chandler, both of them natives of Lancaster, Mass. When about 5 years of age he removed to Shelburne, Mass., where he lived till manhood. He fitted for college with Rev. Theophilus Packard, of Shelburne, entered the junior class in the University of Vermont in 1805, and was graduated in 1807. At the time of his death he was the oldest alumnus of the University.

He read theology with Rev. Theophilus Packard about a year, was licensed by the North Hampshire (now Franklin) Association, Nov. 8, 1808, and was ordained pastor of the Congregational church in





Waitsfield, Vt., Feb. 7, 1810. Rev. Elijah Lyman, of Brookfield, preached the sermon, from Luke 2:34. He was dismissed Feb. 3, 1830, and became stated supply of the Second Congregational church in Hardwick, to which he preached nearly 10 years. During that time a revival took place, and 40 were added to the church. He was installed pastor of the First Congregational church in Greenfield, Mass., Oct. 25, 1832. Rev. Bancroft Foster preached the sermon. In 1846, he received the degree of D. D. from the University of Vermont. In 1853, he was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Massachusetts. His sermon before the Legislature of Vermont in 1824, was published, as were also several others of his occasional sermons and some miscellaneous pamphlets. They are evidently the productions of a mind of great native strength. He died in Greenfield, Oct. 20, 1864.

He married, Oct. 2, 1808, Abigail Whitney, of Shelburne, Mass., by whom he had 4 sons and 4 daughters. She died June 19, 1833, and he married, Nov. 17, 1840, Mary (Nims) Roberts, widow of Horace Roberts, Esq., of Whitingham, Vt. She died Mar. 1, 1852, and he married, Oct. 2, 1855, Mrs. Eliza (Bixby) Gleason, widow of Solomon Gleason, of Coleraine, Mass., P. H. W.

Coventry, Vt., Nov. 26, 1864.

#### ROSWELL G. HERR,

Congressman, was born in Waitsfield, but left when about 2 years old. He is now serving his second term at Washington, as member of the House of Representatives from Michigan, and has the name of being the "wittiest" man in Congress. During the campaign of 1880, he re-visited Waitsfield, and made an address at short notice, which was enthusiastically received.

#### MILITARY, CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 778.

The Memorial Record of Waitsfield, Vt., prepared by Rev. A. B. Dascomb. Published by vote of the town. *Montpelier: Printed at the Freeman Steam Printing Establishment, 1867.*

[Extract from, of interesting facts not given in Mr. Fisk's paper:]

Luther Ainsworth enlisted August 14, 1861, in Co. H, 6th Vt. Reg.; mustered in 2d Lt.; promoted Feb. 18, '62, to 1st Lt.; Sept. 20, '62, Capt.; killed May 4, '63, near Fredericksburg, Va., while leading his men in a charge upon the enemy.

He was shot through the abdomen, dying a few hours after he was wounded. His homeless, orphaned children draw a pension of \$20 per month.

Albert D. Barnard enlisted in Co. B, 13th Reg., Aug. 25, '62; mustered in Oct. 10, '62; discharged with his company at Brattleboro, July 21, '63, in a state of exhaustion; fever set in; died Aug. 12, '63, aged 21 years.

Mitchell Basconner enlisted Aug. 14, '61, in Co. H, 6th Reg.; mustered Oct. 15, '61; killed at Lee's Mills, Apr. 16, '62.

Charles M. Benedict enlisted May 7, '61, in Co. F, 2d Reg.; mustered in June 20, '61; deserted Aug. 30, '62.

Leonard C. Berry enlisted in Co. H, 2d U. S. Sharpshooters, Dec. 14, '63; mustered in Dec. 18, '63; was in hospital at Washington 3 months with a wound; transferred to Co. H, 4th Reg., Feb. 25, '65; mustered out July 13, '65; wounded June 16, '64, in the arm.

Henry N. Bushnell enlisted Aug. 14, '61, as a member of Co. H, 6th Reg.; mustered in as Sergt., Oct. 15, '61; received a commission as 2d Lieut., May 4, '63; as 1st Lieut., May 15, '64; as Captain, Oct. 29, '64; on detached service in Division Sharpshooters 4 months; 5 months served as 1st Lieut. Co. C, 6th Reg. With others of his company from this town, he was in all the battles in which the regiment was engaged—about 25 engagements—covering 50 days' fighting; in his 4 years' service was sick less than a week, and never wounded, save very slightly; mustered out June 26, '65.

Bertram D. Campbell enlisted in Co. H, 3d Reg. June 3, '61; mustered out Aug., '61; enlisted again in Co. H, 6th Reg.; thrown out by the surg.; re-enlisted in Co. G, mustered in Oct. 15, 1862. Toward the close of the summer campaign, sent to hospital at Philadelphia; discharged honorably Oct. 22, '62, receiving a pension of \$6 per month. Aug. 9, '64, again enlisted for the town of Barton, in Co. C, 1st Vt. Cav.; mustered in Aug. 11, '64. In the battle at Winchester, Sept. 19, '64, shot through the abdomen and died in a few moments.





He was buried near a white church, 1½ mile east of Winchester.

Oliver C. Campbell, brother of Bertram D., enlisted in Co. I, 9th Reg., June 9, '62; promoted 2d Lieut. July 9, '62; taken prisoner with his Regiment at Harper's Ferry, Sept. 14, '62; paroled, was sent to Chicago; Dec. 1, resigned his commission; re-enlisted July 9, '63, in the Veteran Reserve Corps; promoted 1st serg. at the organization of the company, and served at Rutland, Concord, N. H., Boston, Ms., till Nov. 15, '65, was discharged.

Wesley E. Dana enlisted in Co. F, 17th Reg., Jan. 2, '64; discharged July 17, '65; was wounded at Spottsylvania by a ball passing through the neck.

Foster S. Dana, brother of the above, enlisted July 2, '61, in Co. H, 3d Reg.; mustered in July 16, '61; mustered out July 27, '64; was on duty every day of his 3 years' service, though twice wounded, once at Lee's Mills, and again at Spottsylvania, Va.

Three other brothers of the above, C. S., Edwin H., and S. J. Dana, enlisted and served in the army. All six returned safely, after being honorably discharged, having performed 12 years of service.

Albee H. Dewey enlisted in Co. B, 13th Reg., Aug. 25, '62; was mustered in as Sergt., Oct. 10, '62; re-enlisted in the Signal Corps, Oct. 23, '63; Jan. 1, '64, sent to Newbern, N. C.; soon after placed in command of a signal station at Fort Gaston; Sept. 26, attacked by yellow fever; died the 28th, aged 32; buried in the Soldiers' Cemetery at Newbern.

Hiram F. Dike enlisted Aug. 14, '61, in Co. H, 7th Reg.; mustered in Oct. 15, '61; promoted Corp., Mar. 12, '62; missed in action at Banks' Ford, May 4, '63; supposed to be dead.

Alba B. Durkee enlisted in Co. I, 9th Reg., Dec. 21, '63; mustered in Jan. 6, '64; died Sept. 25, '64.

Isaac H. Elliot enlisted in Co. I, 9th Reg., June 26, '62; mustered in July 9, '62; taken prisoner at Winchester, Sept. 3, '62; held by the enemy 20 days; discharged Sept. 25, '62, by reason of ill-health.

Edward A. Fisk enlisted Aug. 21, '62, in Co. B, 13th Reg.; mustered in Oct. 10, '62; mustered out July 21, '63.

Heman R. French enlisted June 23, '62, in Co. I, 9th Reg.; mustered in July 9, '62; taken prisoner with his regiment at Harper's Ferry, Sept. 14, '62; promoted hospital steward, Feb. 4, '65; mustered out June 13, '65.

Ephraim H. Fuller enlisted in Co. H, 6th Reg., Aug. 14, '61; mustered in Oct. 15, '61, as corporal; discharged Oct. 28, '64; wounded at Lee's Mills, Va., Apr. 16, '62, in both thighs; draws a pension of \$4 per month.

William H. H. Greenslit enlisted June 20, '62, in Co. I, 9th Reg.; mustered in July 9, '62; committed suicide Aug. 21, '62, at Winchester, Va.

Manley N. Hoyt enlisted in Co. G, 6th Reg., Oct. 7, '61; mustered in Oct. 15, '61; died July 18, '62, at Philadelphia, of chronic diarrhea, aged 31 years.

George M. Jones enlisted in the 2d Reg. U. S. S. S., Co. H, Nov. 28, '63; mustered in Dec. 18, '63; killed at the battle of the Wilderness, May 6, '64, while assisting a wounded comrade from the field. He, like the others from this town killed in that battle, was struck in the head and killed instantly.

John F. Jones enlisted Sept. 10, '61, in Co. G, 6th Reg.; mustered in as Sergt., Oct. 15, '61; discharged Apr. 17, '63, on account of sickness; re-enlisted in Massachusetts; after a few months' service, sickened, and died Nov. 28, '64.

Eugene E. Joslin enlisted in the 2d Reg. of U. S. S. S., Co. H, Nov. 28, '63; mustered in Dec. 18, '63; promoted Corp., Nov. 1, '64; afterwards Sergt.; transferred to Co. H, 4th Reg., Feb. 25, '65; discharged July 13, '65; wounded in the shoulder at the battle of the Wilderness, May 6, '64.

Seymour L. Kneeland enlisted Nov. 28, '63, in 1st Cav. Reg., Co. C; mustered in Dec. 25, '63; transferred to Co. A, June 21, '65; mustered out Aug. 9, '65; taken prisoner Dec. 19, '64, on picket duty near Woodstock, Va., by scouts of the 12th Va. Cav.; kept at Staunton, Va., 12 days; taken to Richmond and confined in Libb





Prison. His food was the usual scant allowance of corn bread and poor bacon—just enough to hold flesh and spirit together; was paroled Mar. 9, '65; exchanged about a month after.

James L. Maynard enlisted in Co. H, 2d Reg., U. S. S. S., Nov. 28, '63; mustered in Dec. 13, '63; killed May 6, '64, at the battle of the Wilderness; shot through the head. Like the others from this town killed in that battle, his body was not recovered.

Ziba H. McAllister enlisted Aug. 25, '62, in Co. B, 13th Reg.; mustered in Oct. 10, '62; mustered out July 21, '63; re-enlisted in Co. C, 1st Vt. Cav., Nov. 30, '63; mustered in Dec. 25, '63; mustered out Aug. 9, '65, having been transferred to Co. A, June 21, '65; wounded Oct. 7, '64, in the side and back, while on duty in the Shenandoah Valley, Va.

Irenas P. Newcomb enlisted in Co. H, 6th Reg., Aug. 14, '61; mustered in Oct. 15, '61; died at Hampton, Va., of typhoid pneumonia, Apr. 9, '62, aged 18 years and 8 months; buried there.

Edwin F. Palmer enlisted Aug. 25, '62, in Co. B, 13th Reg.; mustered in as Sergt., Oct. 10, '62; promoted 2d Lieut., Nov. 4, '62; mustered out July 21, '63. Lieut. Palmer kept a record of his army life, and has since published it in a neat book form, entitled "Camp Life," containing 224 pp. The book is a history of his company, in which there were 23 men from this town; also of the 13th Reg. and 2d Brig. It is a graphic portrayal of the discomforts, weariness, danger, with the occasional relief of comfort, rest and pleasure, incident to soldiers' life.

Dexter Parker enlisted Aug. 25, '62, in Co. B, 13th Reg.; mustered in Oct. 10, '62; in the battle of Gettysburg was severely wounded in the hand; mustered out July 21, '63; draws a pension of \$4 per month.

Lorin B. Reed enlisted Aug. 25, '62; in Co. B, 13th Reg.; mustered in Oct. 10, '62; musician in the brigade band; died of measles in hospital at Wolf Run Shoals, May 30, '63, aged 21 years, 11 months.

Oscar C. Reed enlisted Aug. 25, '62, in

Co. B, 13th Reg.; died of fever in hospital near Fairfax, Va., Dec. 26, '62, aged 24. His body, and that of his cousin, Lorin B. Reed, were brought home for burial.

Edwin R. Richardson enlisted in Co. H, 6th Reg., Aug. 14, '61; mustered in Oct. 15, '61; promoted Corp., Feb. 8, '62; promoted Sergt., July 10, '63; 1st Sergt., June 5, '64; re-enlisted Dec. 15, '63; killed at Charlestown, Va., Aug. 21, '64; shot through the head, and died immediately. His body was brought home for burial.

Loren S. Richardson enlisted Nov. 28, '63; mustered in as a recruit in Co. H, 2d Reg. of U. S. S. S., Dec. 18, '63; transferred to Co. H, 4th Reg., Feb. 25, '65; mustered out July 14, '65; wounded severely in the shoulder, at Cold Harbor, June 10, '64.

Lucius D. Savage enlisted in Co. F, 2d Reg., May 20, '61; in the battle of Savage Station, June 29, '62, wounded and permanently disabled in the right knee, and taken prisoner; released July 25, '62; discharged Nov. 29, '62; receives a half pension, \$4 per month.

Dr. Henry C. Shaw went out from this town as Assistant Surgeon of the 2d N. H. Reg.; serving out his time, 3 months, returned as Assistant Surgeon in 5th Vt. Reg.; died of fever at Alexandria, Va., Sept. 7, '62, aged 30. His remains were brought home for internment.

Lucius S. Shaw, Esq., brother of Dr. Henry C., while practicing law in Lawrence, Kansas, enlisted in the 2d Kansas Reg.; was promoted Lieut., and killed Sept. 3, '61, aged 31, by an accident on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, caused by the burning of a bridge. His body lies beside that of his brother.

Daniel P. Shepard enlisted Aug. 14, '61, in Co. H, 6th Reg.; mustered Corp., Oct. 15, '61; afterwards served as teamster; re-enlisted Dec. 15, '63; mustered out June 26, '65; wounded in the leg at Lee's Mills, Va., Apr. 16, '62.

Mason C. Shepard, brother of Daniel P., enlisted Aug. 14, '61, in Co. H, 6th Reg.; mustered in Oct. 15, '61; re-enlisted Dec. 15, '63; transferred to Co. G, Jan. 1, '65; transferred back May 18, '65;





in hospital several months; mustered out June 26, '65; wounded in the breast and face at Lee's Mills, April 16, '62.

Lewis M. Spaulding enlisted Aug. 14, '61, in Co. H, 6th Reg.; mustered in Oct. 15, '61; re-enlisted Dec. 15, '63; killed at the battle of the Wilderness, May 5, '64. A ball pierced his head while charging the enemy with the Vermont troops, and he died instantly.

Solon S. Spaulding, brother of Lewis M., enlisted Aug. 14, '61, in Co. H, 6th Reg.; mustered in Oct. 15, '61; promoted Corp.; re-enlisted Dec. 15, '63; discharged June 12, '65, with health impaired by long-continued sickness.

Harlan P. Stoddard enlisted in Co. E, 2d Reg., May 1, '61; in the battle at Savage Station, wounded by the passage of a ball through the pelvis, and taken prisoner; discharged July 30, '63. His wound he will probably never recover from. He receives a full pension, \$15 per month. Three of his brothers followed him into the U. S. service.

Horace B. Stoddard enlisted in Co. F, 2d Reg., Sept. '61; a few months before the expiration of his time of service, while at his post in the battle of the Wilderness, was struck by a ball in the head, and it is supposed died instantly. His body, and that of his brother, L. Thompson Stoddard, were not recovered.

L. Thompson Stoddard enlisted in Co. B, 13th Reg., Aug. 25, '62; mustered out July 21, '63; re-enlisted in Co. C, 17th Reg., Jan. 5, '63; mustered in Corp.; carried the State colors till cut and torn in pieces by shot and shell; at the time of the explosion of the mine at Petersburg, was wounded in the shoulder while trying to get back to the Union lines, and taken prisoner; spared the horrors of long confinement in Southern prisons; died 8 days after the explosion, Aug. 7, '64, while in the hands of the enemy.

Lyman Stoddard enlisted Sept. 20, '61; mustered in Oct. 15, '61, as a member of Co. G, 6th Reg.; re-enlisted Dec. 15, '63; mustered out June 26, '65; two brothers also served in the army for other towns, Daniel and Franklin Stoddard.

Cyron G. Thayer enlisted Aug. 25, '62, in Co. B, 13th Reg.; died May 20, '63, of measles, age 21.

James M. Thayer, brother of Cyron G., enlisted; mustered into the same company at the same time; discharged for sickness Jan. 22, '63; has since died.

Orcus C. Wilder enlisted Aug. 25, '62, in Co. B, 13th Reg.; mustered Capt. Oct. 10, '62; mustered out July 21, '63. Capt. Wilder and the 20 men or more in his company from Waitsfield, were hotly engaged in the battle of Gettysburg, though none were killed. This was all the fighting they saw during their 9 months' service.

#### OUR ENLISTMENTS IN OTHER TOWNS.

Young men who grew up among us and are known to all.

Matthias J. Bushnell, age 26, enlisted in 1st Wis. Cav., Co. B, Aug. 24, '61; mustered in Corp.; killed in a small engagement with the rebels, near Madison, Ark., Aug. 3, '62, while guarding a wagon train. All who were with him were killed or taken prisoners.

Hiland G. Campbell, age 26, enlisted for the town of Warren, as a recruit for the 3d Vt. Battery. In Oct. kicked by a horse, and injured in the thigh; remained in hospital; discharged; receives a pension of \$8 per month; bounty \$733.34, Government and town.

Israel Childs, a former resident of the town for many years, enlisted early in the war, in the 30th Wis. Reg., and served 3 years, a part of the time in the frontier service.

Chester S. Dana, age 33, enlisted for Fayston; bounty \$200, from Government.

Edwin H. Dana, age 32, enlisted for Waterbury; was wounded at the battle of Cold Harbor, June 3, '64; draws a pension of \$6 per month; bounty, \$300 government, and \$300 town.

Samuel J. Dana, age 29, brother of Edwin H. and the three before named, enlisted for Fayston; wounded by a shell at Gettysburg; bounty from government \$25.

William W. McAllister, age 20, enlisted Aug. 8, '64, in 3d Vt. Light Artill., on de-





tached service at Rutland, Vt., and Fairhaven, Ct., 6 months, the remainder of the time at Petersburg, Va.: discharged June 15, '65; bounty, \$500.

Harlen G. Newcomb, age 24, enlisted Aug. 19, '62, in Co. K, 145th N. Y. Vols.; mustered in on Staten Island; fall of the next year, while in hospital, detailed as nurse; Mar., '64, transferred to Co. I, 107th N. Y. Vols.; next month joined the company at Shelbyville, Tenn., detailed at Div. Head Quarters, Sept., '64, after surrender of Atlanta; rejoined his company, May 23, '65; discharged June 19, '65; bounty, \$175, from government, state, and town.

Daniel Russ, age 29, enlisted June 23, '62, in Co. I, 9th Reg. Vt. Vols.; taken prisoner and paroled at the surrender of Harper's Ferry, Sept. 15, '62; detailed as clerk in dispensary, April 15, '63; in hospital from Sept. '63, till Jan. 12, '64, when he rejoined his company; promoted Sergt. Mar. 26, '64; 1st Sergt., Mar. '65; discharged by order of the President, June 8, '65, at Manchester, Va.; bounty, \$100.

James C. Russ, brother of Daniel, enlisted in Co. A, 42d Wis. Vols.; discharged June 28, '65.

Frank E. Spaulding, aged 26, enlisted in Sheldon, Sept. 61, in Co. K, 6th Reg. Vt. Vols.; discharged June 30, '62, for disability.

George E. Spaulding, aged 18, brother of Frank E., Solon S. and Lewis M., enlisted in Co. G, 10th N. Y. Vols. for Albany; served from April till Aug. '65; bounty, \$600, from town.

Charles D. Tewksbury, aged 23, enlisted Sept. 17, '61, in Co. B, 52d Ill. Vols. Inf.; mustered in at Geneva, Ill., Oct. 25, '61, as Corp.; promoted Sergt., May 16, '62; re-enlisted as veteran Dec. 25, '63; promoted 1st Sergt. Apr. '64; mustered out July 6, '65, at Louisville, Ky., receiving a lieutenant's commission; received \$502 bounty from government, and \$1 from Bureau Co., Ill.; was wounded at the battle of Shiloh in the head; in hospital only long enough to have his wound dressed during his 4 years' service; traveled with his regiment over 6,000 miles, 1,600 of

which he marched on foot; after that, started off under Gen. Sherman, and marched around to Savannah, and up to Washington.

Isaac Norton Tewksbury, uncle of Chas. D., native of Waitsfield, and more than 20 years resident, served in a Mich. Reg.; killed in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, aged 52.

Other persons, natives of Waitsfield, have doubtless served in the army, but the compiler has failed to learn the facts in regard to them.

#### AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION.

BY MRS. T. E. FISHER.

"Jesus has died upon the cross!"  
Oh how the tidings fell  
With stunning weight on those who loved  
The "Hope of Israel!"

A few had owned Him as the Christ.  
The "very Christ," and they  
Had left their all to follow Him  
Upon His blessed way.

But Oh, they had not understood  
How dark that way must be,  
They knew not that the Son of God  
Could die upon the tree.

And when they saw Him on the cross,  
Hope was not wholly gone,  
They thought by some mysterious power  
God might save His Son.

But when He bowed His godlike head  
And yielded up the ghost,  
When He had died as dies mere man,  
They gave up all for lost.

Oh, who can paint the bitter grief  
That wrung their hearts that hour,  
The deep, unutterable despair  
That crushed them with its power.

Had He deceived them? Could it be  
The Shiloh had not come?  
Their brows were pale with grief and dread,  
Their ashy lips were dumb.

Three days His body, cold and still,  
Within the grave had lain,  
When thrilled their hearts the joyful words,  
"Jesus has risen again!"

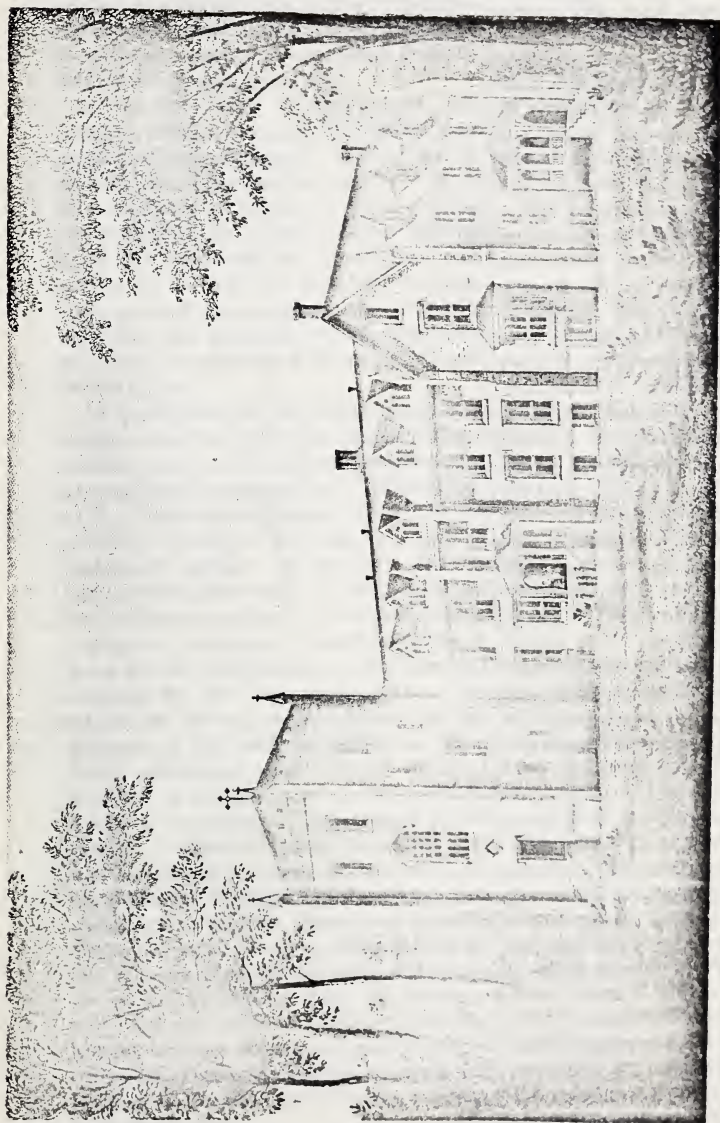
Jesus has risen again; no more  
Anguish and doubts and fears.  
Glad joy lights up the wondering eyes  
So lately dimmed by tears.

He is the Lord! the mighty God!  
The Jesus, the Saviour lives!  
And O, new proof. He is the same,  
Their unbelieved forgives.

Jesus has risen from the dead!  
No more we fear to die,  
Because Thou livest we shall live,  
O, Son of God Most High.







Vermont Episcopal Institute,  
Burlington, Vermont.



## UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

BY PROF. N. G. CLARK.

The men who met to frame a constitution for the state of Vermont in 1777, understood full well the importance of a thorough system of education, as essential to the well-being and preservation of a free government. Besides providing for a system of common schools, one section declares that "one grammar school in each county, and one university in this state, ought to be established by direction of the general assembly."

At the time when this constitution was adopted, a little more than half of the townships had been chartered. But in the remaining one right was reserved "for the use of a seminary or college." By this means about 29,000 acres of land, scattered through some 120 townships and gores, but lying chiefly in the northern part of the state, were secured for a college, and eventually came into the possession of the University of Vermont, though much of this land proved of little value.

In consequence of the sparse population and the unsettled condition of public affairs, nothing beyond this general provision was accomplished for some years. The attention of the public was at length aroused by the efforts of President Wheelock in behalf of Dartmouth college. In the year 1785, he secured from this state, to the disregard of the prospective wants of its own institutions, and with a generosity it could ill afford, a grant of land nearly equal in amount to that reserved for its own university;—"the legislature having a high sense of the importance of the said institution of Dartmouth college and Moor's Charity school to mankind in general and to this commonwealth in particular." Encouraged by his success President Wheelock the next year was proceeding to secure all the lands appropriated by the state for educational purposes, and to take its educational interests under his particular care, when the attention of some of our leading men, and among the rest, Hon. Elijah Paine of Williamstown, Gen. Ira Allen of Colchester, and Dr. Samuel Williams of Rutland, was awakened to the importance of carrying out the provisions of the constitution to secure a college in their own state.

As early as 1785, Judge Paine offered to give £2,000 to be expended in the erection of a suitable building for a college, if it should be located at Williamstown, and endowed with the college lands. Soon after,

Gen. Ira Allen made an effort to secure the institution at Burlington, by the offer of £4,000 in his own name, and £1,650 from other subscribers. The question was decided by the general assembly in favor of Burlington, in 1791, and a charter duly made out. The vote stood 89 for Burlington, 24 for Rutland, 5 for Montpelier, 1 for Danville, 1 for Castleton, 1 for Berlin, and 5 for Williamstown. The main reasons for deciding in favor of Burlington, were, the convenience of access from all directions, the distance from Dartmouth and Williams college (then in contemplation), the unrivaled beauty of the natural scenery, and especially the very liberal subscriptions offered by Gen. Allen and others of the vicinity.

The corporation was at once organized, and in the following June, a square of 50 acres, then covered with stately pine trees, was set off, on which to erect the college buildings. Some delay arising from a difference of opinion between Gen. Allen and the remainder of the corporation, nothing farther was done till October, 1793, when it was decided that "early in the next summer a house shall be built on the college square for the use of the university." This was for a preparatory school, and eventually for the house of the president. This building, 48 feet in length, 37 in breadth, and 2 stories high—known in later years as "the old yellow house," and burned in 1844,—was begun in 1794, and nearly completed the following year. At this juncture Gen. Allen, who had been actively engaged in completing this building, and in preparing for a college edifice, engaged in an unfortunate commercial speculation, which seriously embarrassed him, and finally deprived the university of a large part of his subscription. From this cause little more was done to the building till 1798, when the work was resumed and completed. The next year a farther subscription of £2,300, from the citizens of Burlington, prepared the way for a college edifice, and a preparatory school was opened in the building already erected, under the care of Rev. Daniel C. Sanders. During the year 1800 preparations were making to begin the new building early the next spring. In the meantime Mr. Sanders was elected president, October 17, 1800, and four young men were formally admitted to the university. President Sanders, a graduate of Harvard, was a man of rare enterprise, tact and energy. He continued at the head of the institution till it was broken up in the war of 1812; and its early success, notwith-





standing peculiar trials and difficulties, was due in no small degree to his untiring efforts—at one time felling the pine trees with his own hand to clear a place for the college buildings and superintending their erection, and again acting as sole instructor for some years.

From an article in the *Vermont Sentinel* of July, 1805, we learn that the college edifice had been erected “four stories high, 45 feet wide at each end, 95 feet in the middle formed by a projection of 15 feet in front, 15 feet in rear, 160 feet long, built of brick, of durable materials and excellent workmanship.” The different college buildings had cost \$24,391. For this large sum the college was dependent upon private liberality. The institution was now fairly begun, and the first class graduated in 1804. Four years after the number of paying students was 61—the largest number reached under the presidency of Mr. Sanders.

For the first 6 years with the exception of a single term, all the instruction in the college proper was given by the president. In 1807, Mr. James Dean, a graduate of Dartmouth, was appointed tutor, and two years later, professor of mathematics and natural philosophy. By this time a good philosophical apparatus had been secured, second only to that of Yale and Harvard, and the course of study generally was as extensive as that in any of the New England colleges. The charge for tuition was fixed at \$10 a year, and other expenses were proportionately light. It was the expectation at first that the income from the public lands and the patronage of the entire state would, at an early day, enable the corporation to make tuition free, at least to all the sons of Vermont.

In 1809, Dr. John Pomeroy was appointed to the chair of anatomy and surgery. In 1811, Rev. Jason Chamberlain was elected professor of the Latin and Greek languages, and the Hon. Royall Tyler, professor of jurisprudence; and arrangements were made to fill, as soon as the funds would allow, a professorship of belles lettres, and one of chemistry and mineralogy, “whose duty it shall be to analyze at the charge of the institution, all fossils, minerals, &c., which may be discovered within the limits of this state.” So liberal and comprehensive were the plans of the noble men who then had the superintendence of the institution—numbering among them Samuel Hitchcock, Dudley Chase, Titus Hutchinson, Royall Tyler and William C. Bradley—worthy compeers of the

original founder, the generous, large-minded, but unfortunate Ira Allen.

Their plans failed of realization. The connection of the university with the state, gave rise to political intrigues, and brought little aid to an embarrassed treasury. The establishment of a rival college at Middlebury drew off students from the best portion of the field of the university. The troubles with Great Britain interfered with the commercial prosperity of the community; and to crown all, on the breaking out of the war, the college buildings were seized for military purposes, and the university was compelled to suspend its course of instruction, dismiss its academical faculty, and recommend its students to other institutions. No compensation for this well-nigh fatal blow to the welfare of the institution was ever received from the government. Though the college buildings were put in good repair on their evacuation, the rent promised for their use never found its way into the college treasury, and the institution, beggared, had to begin anew.

It was reorganized in 1815, by the appointment of Rev. Samuel Austin, for 25 years a pastor of a congregational church at Worcester, Mass., as president; Rev. James Murdoch of Princeton, Mass., professor of languages; Rev. Ebenezer Burgess, professor of mathematics and natural philosophy; Jairus Kennan, professor of chemistry and mineralogy; and instruction was resumed. But, though the faculty possessed in an eminent degree the confidence of the Christian public, both as teachers and religious men, the number of students was small. The attention of the young men and of the community had been turned elsewhere, and the faculty ere long became discouraged. Mr. Kennan died in about a year after his appointment, one officer left after another, till at last Dr. Austin resigned in 1821.

At this time, the institution was kept from complete disorganization by the efforts of Mr. Arthur L. Porter, recently appointed to the chair of chemistry. Through his influence, Rev. Daniel Haskel, pastor of the Congregational church in Burlington was appointed president, and James Dean was induced to resume his former post as professor of mathematics; and in 2 years' time the number of students went up from 22 to 70. But in 1824, just as better days were beginning to dawn, a yet greater calamity befell the university. The college edifice with its library and apparatus were laid in ashes. The health and reason of President





Haskel broke down under the trial, and most of the officers withdrew. Yet a second time, the same young man who had just before saved the institution, found generous hearts and hands to aid him, and in the course of three months, by the pledge of \$8,300 from the inhabitants of Burlington, arrangements were completed for a new building. The corner stone was laid by Gen. Lafayette, June 29, 1825. This building was not as large on the ground as the former, and was but three stories high. While this was in progress, George W. Benedict was elected professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, and remained connected with the institution in this and other departments for 22 years, a most valuable college officer. Rev. Willard Preston was elected president in the early part of 1825, but retained the position only a little more than a year, when he was succeeded by Rev. James Marsh. The next year Rev. Joseph Torrey was appointed to the chair of languages, which he left in 1842, for that of intellectual and moral philosophy, which he still holds in vigorous old age.

To the labors of President Marsh, aided by Profs. Benedict and Torrey, the university owes its essential character as an institution of learning and religion. Its course of study, which its varying board of instruction has sought to carry out, is substantially as it was originally matured by them; — systematic, aiming at the harmonious presentation of different branches, in a way to secure the best mental and moral discipline, and to ground the student in the fundamental principles of the various departments of knowledge, including philology, science, philosophy, government and religion.

In order the better to carry out his ideas of instruction, President Marsh resigned the presidency in 1833, for the chair of intellectual and moral philosophy, which he held till his death, in 1842. Rev. John Wheeler was elected to succeed him as president, and continued in this post till Aug. 1848, when he resigned. He was succeeded by Rev. Worthington Smith, who was elected the following June, and entered on his duties at the next commencement. Upon the failure of Dr. Smith's health in 1855, he resigned his place, and was succeeded by the Rev. Calvin Pease, D. D., who had occupied the chair of languages vacated by Prof. Torrey.

In December, 1861, Dr. Pease tendered his resignation of the presidency, to take effect at the close of the half year, Feb. 1862, having accepted a call to a pastorate in Roches-

ter, N. Y.; and the following September, Prof. Torrey was appointed president of the institution.

It must suffice to say of the successors of Dr. Marsh, that they have sought to administer the affairs of the university in accordance with the ideas we have indicated, as first elaborated and exemplified by him and his colleagues. The pecuniary embarrassments consequent on repeated reverses and trials they have severally sought to relieve, and with more or less success, by subscriptions from among the friends of the institution; and greater liberality in supplying its wants is now all that is needed to enable it to realize the beneficent purposes of its founders.

War has now a second time added to the embarrassments of the university, and reduced the number of its students; some of whom, dependent on their own efforts for means to prosecute their studies, have been obliged to withdraw, while others have heard the call of the country and taken up arms in its defence. About one-fifth of its entire number have engaged in the public service. Retrenchment has been necessary, and besides delaying to fill the office of president, the chair held by Prof. Hungerford has been suspended, and his duties distributed between Prof. Marsh of the academical, and Prof. Seeley of the medical department. Yet the second half of the college year, 1861-2, opens with better auspices. Means have been secured to make thorough repairs in the rooms occupied by the students, and a handsome library building, 2 stories high, 40 feet by 60, is in process of erection. Means for the latter had been secured, for the most part, by the efforts of President Pease.

The limited space allowed for this article, will not permit a detailed notice of the different men connected with the institution at different times, or of the various changes made from one department to another, as have been found most convenient for the ends of instruction. A passing notice of a few other men, and of the present organization, is all we can attempt.

Mr. F. N. Benedict was elected to the chair of mathematics in 1833, and continued in active service till 1854, when he was succeeded by Rev. McKendree Petty. The chair of natural philosophy was filled by Prof. Henry Chaney from 1838 to 1853, when the duties of this department were divided between the professors of mathematics and chemistry. In 1845 a new department of English literature was organized and placed under the care of Rev. W. G. T. Shedd.





When Prof. Shedd, in 1852, removed to Auburn Theological seminary, Rev. N. G. Clark was chosen to succeed him.

A tabular statement of the different departments and the officers in charge, with the time of their appointment, will present at a glance the present organization (Dec., 1862): Rev. Joseph Torrey, D. D., president and professor of intellectual and moral philosophy, 1842; Rev. N. G. Clark, professor of English literature and Latin, 1852; Rev. McKendree Petty (Williams'), professor of mathematics, 1854; Leonard Marsh, M. D., professor of natural history, 1857; Rev. M. H. Buckham, professor of Greek.

The president, and Prof. Marsh are graduates of Dartmouth; Profs. Clark, Petty and Buckham of the university.

The university possesses a valuable library and philosophical apparatus. For this purpose the sum of \$14,000 was appropriated in 1834, and Prof. Torrey sent to Europe to secure apparatus and the best standard works. Additions have been made from time to time to the library, and the collections of natural history, now quite valuable, partly by purchase and partly by donations. The library of the university now numbers nearly 10,000 volumes, and those of the literary societies connected with it make up some 4,000 more. There are 2 library funds, of which the avails of one are to be expended for the purchase of periodicals, and of the other for works in English literature and history; the first, of \$500, founded by George W. Strong of New York city, in 1847; the second, of \$1,250; of this \$750 was given in 1836, by John B. Wheeler of Oxford, N. H., and Nathan Wheeler of Grafton, Vt., at the same time with \$750 for the immediate purchase of this class of works, and \$500, in 1853, by President Wheeler.

The university, though nominally a state institution, has received no aid of any account beyond the original grant of lands, many of which turned out to be of little or no value. The hindrances it has met, and the losses incurred by the war of 1812, and by fire in 1824, have more than swallowed up an equivalent to any advantage derived from the state, though the aid thus given, and which was inalienable by war, or sale, or fire, has done much to sustain the institution. It has, however, been obliged to depend in a great degree upon the friends of learning and christian culture for its support; and to vindicate its claim by the intellectual and moral discipline imparted to the young men it has sent forth to the world.

The largest donations it has ever received were from Gen. Ira Allen, amounting to perhaps \$8,000 or \$9,000; from Hon. Azariah Williams, in 1839, amounting in lands and other property to about \$20,000, in honor of whom his name has been attached to the professorship of mathematics; and from Dr. Daniel Washburn of Stowe, in 1858, amounting to some \$8,000.

According to the triennial catalogue of 1861, the number of young men who have completed a course of study within the institution is 718. Probably 500 more have been connected with it for a shorter period. Of the graduates 248 have followed the profession of law; 153 have entered the ministry; 30 have studied medicine; 61, including some of the later graduates who have not yet settled upon a profession, have devoted themselves to teaching, and about 20 have entered upon editorial life. The whole number who have received the honors of the university is 1,219. The average attendance of students for the last 25 years has been about 100; of graduates annually for the same period, 20.

The religious history of the institution has not been characterized so much by occasional revivals as by a sustained religious sentiment, resulting in frequent conversions of individuals rather than in seasons of a revived religious life. During the 15 years, for instance, ending 1859, the number of graduates who studied for the ministry was 65, of whom more than half were converted in college. It may be said that a year rarely passes without more or less conversions, especially while attending upon the studies of the senior year.

We have confined our attention thus far exclusively to the proper collegiate relations of the university. It was originally intended to include professional courses of study, and some little effort was made to secure them, as was shown by the appointment of Dr. John Pomeroy to the chair of anatomy and surgery in 1806, and of Royall Tyler to that of jurisprudence in 1811, but only the medical department was fully organized. This was in 1821, and was kept up till 1834, when it was suspended by the death of Dr. Benjamin Lincoln, who had been for some years its leading mind. It was again revived in 1853, by the efforts of Dr. S. W. Thayer, Jr., of Northfield, and Dr. Walter Carpenter of Randolph, who both removed to Burlington, and under whose auspices this department has attained to a good degree of prosperity. The number who have completed a medical education in the university is 216.





After the lapse of 60 years of trial and difficulty, and a fair measure of success, the university may now be said to have gained an abiding place among the institutions of the land, and to be contributing its share to the interests of good learning and religion, in the training of a select body of young men for places of honor and usefulness.

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

1. Daniel Clarke Sanders, D. D.,\* 1800-1814.
2. Samuel Austin, D. D.,.....1815-1821.
3. Daniel Haskel, A. M.,.....1821-1824.
4. Willard Preston, D. D.,.....1825-1826.
5. James Marsh, D. D.,.....1826-1833.
6. John Wheeler, D. D.,.....1833-1849.
7. Worthington Smith, D. D.,.....1849-1855.
8. Calvin Pease, D. D.,.....1855-1862.
9. Joseph Torrey, D. D., .....1862.

#### *President Austin.*

Samuel Austin, D. D., president of the University of Vermont from 1815 to 1821, was born in New Haven, Conn., October 7, 1760. He was the son of Samuel and Lydia Austin. At the age of 16, he entered the army as a substitute for his father, but obtained a discharge upon the capture of New York by the British. For the next 4 years, he was engaged in teaching and in the study of law. Feeling the need of a better education, he soon turned his attention to classical study, and at the age of 20 entered Yale college, from which he was graduated in 1783. He united with the church soon after entering college, and was distinguished while there for his decided christian character. One of his classmates speaks of his commencement oration as one of the best performances of the kind, and of his high rank as a scholar in his class.

Soon after his graduation, he began his theological studies under the direction of Rev. Jonathan Edwards, D. D., then of New Haven, and was ordained there in November, 1786.

Some 4 years later he was settled over the first Congregational society in Worcester, Mass. He had in the meantime married the daughter of Rev. Dr. Samuel Hopkins of Hadley, Mass. He remained at Worcester about 25 years, and acted a prominent part in the general religious movements of his day, besides fulfilling his duties diligently and faithfully as a pastor. He was one of the originators of the General Association of Mass.; he shared in the formation of the

\*For biographic notice see article by Rev. Joshua Young, page 539.

Mass. Home Missionary society; served on many ecclesiastical councils; published many sermons and tracts for the times; and collected and edited with care the works of the elder President Edwards. He was a strong, earnest, efficient defender of sound doctrine, and a man of great influence among the churches. In 1807 he was complimented with a doctorate in divinity by Williams college.

From these labors he was called in 1815 to the presidency of the University of Vermont, then just reviving, or rather attempting to revive, after the war of 1812. After six years of great labor and struggle with the difficulties of the situation, and after having really accomplished a valuable work, but not such as to meet his expectations, he resigned his charge, and was soon after settled in the ministry at Newport, R. I., where he remained four years, and did not again engage in any active labors. He spent his last years in feeble health at the house of his nephew, Rev. Samuel H. Riddel, then of Glastonbury, Conn., where he died Dec. 4, 1830.

Dr. Murdoch, who was professor in the university during the presidency of Dr. Austin, says of him, "that as president of a college, he was faithful to his trust. His efforts to promote the interests of the college were untiring; and he enjoyed in a high degree the respect and confidence of the public. . . . For the spiritual welfare of his pupils he was deeply solicitous. . . . All his people respected and loved him; and to his subordinate officers he was uncommonly affectionate and kind." As a preacher, one who knew him well remarks: "The topics on which he delighted most to dwell, were the benevolence, the sovereignty, and the glory of God; the great system of redemption; the character of Christ and his sufferings, with the extensive results upon the universe, and especially in the sanctification and salvation of his chosen people. . . . In the appropriateness, and enlargement, and spiritual glowing fervor of his public devotions, he has seldom been excelled." \*

#### *President Haskel.*

Daniel Haskel, who succeeded President Austin in the University of Vermont, the son of Roger and Anna Haskel, was born in Preston, Conn., in June, 1784. His early years were spent on a farm. He entered Yale college in 1798, and was graduated in 1802. The

\* For more full particulars see Sprague's *Annals*, from which many of the facts for this, as for the succeeding notices, have been derived.





next two years we find him engaged in a public school, at Norwich, Conn.; afterwards in other schools, looking, however, to the ministry as his final field of labor. His theological studies were at Princeton, under the care of Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith. After preaching for a little time in Connecticut, and afterwards at St. Albans, Vt., he was called to take charge of the Calvinistic Congregational church in Burlington, over which he was settled on the 10th of April, 1810. The same year he was married to Elizabeth Leavitt, daughter of Dudley Leavitt, Esq., of Bethlem, Conn.

"Mr. Haskel continued the faithful and beloved pastor of this church until the year 1821, when he was called to preside over the University of Vermont. He preached occasionally during his connection with the university, but never after his connection with it closed. He resigned his office as president in 1824."

About two years after his appointment as president, he suffered a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, that eventually affected his mind, ending in derangement, or more strictly speaking, monomania. Though able at times to engage in literary pursuits, he was never himself again.

After resorting to various places and institutions, in the vain hope of recovering from his malady, the latter years of his life were spent with his family at Brooklyn, N. Y., where his wife had gone to live with her mother.

His time in Brooklyn was spent mostly in study, particularly in mathematics and astronomy, with occasional lectures before public institutions, or an article for the press, among others, a lecture on the English language, published in the *Knickerbocker Magazine* of February and March, 1840. His last labors were upon the American part of McCulloch's *Universal Gazetteer*, a work of much labor, which he performed by engagement for the Harpers of New York.\*

A portrait before me, taken from a miniature likeness when a young man, presented to the university by Mr. Leavitt, through President Wheeler, represents an uncommonly fine head, full, high forehead, remarkably well proportioned. I was not surprised to read in a letter of one of his classmates, published in Sprague's *Annals*, that "in scholarship his rank was not far below the highest; and yet, had his college course been a year or two later (he was one of the younger members of the class), I have no

doubt that he would have developed a still higher degree of intellectual promise."

His success as president of the university was all his friends had anticipated. The number of the students increased, and the prospects had become more cheering than for many years, when he was disabled, and obliged to retire.

#### *President Preston.*

Rev. Willard Preston, D. D., was born in Uxbridge, Mass., May 29, 1785, the youngest but one of a family of six sons and six daughters. His father was a substantial farmer, a man of peculiarly strong mind, and great energy, as well as uprightness of character. His mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Hart, was a lady of unusual sprightliness of mind and sweetness of disposition, joined to a cheerful consistent piety. The son shared largely in the qualities of both his parents, and in childhood was remarkable for the purity of his character, and those qualities of mind and heart, that made him at once the pet of his parents, and the delight of his older brothers and sisters.

He was prepared for college by Rev. Dr. Crane, parish minister of Northbridge, and was graduated at Brown university, with one of the highest honors of his class, in 1806. For a year after he devoted himself to the study of law. During this time, yielding his heart to the claims of the great Lawgiver, he turned his thoughts to the ministry. In the spring of 1807, he made public profession of religion, and commenced theological reading with Rev. Samuel Starnes, and was the next year licensed to preach the gospel. In the fall of the year 1808, he was invited to become the pastor of the Congregational church of Burlington, Vt., but declined in view of the feebleness of his health. The next three years were spent in the southern states. On his return to New England in 1811, he was married to Lucy Maria Bohu of Brooklyn, Conn., and soon after, January 8, 1812, was settled as pastor of the Congregational church at St. Albans, Vt. Here he remained till September, 1815, when he was obliged to seek a milder climate, greatly to the regret of an attached people, who twice afterward solicited his return. The following June, he was settled in Providence, R. I., when his labors were greatly blessed to his own congregation and to the young men of the university. In 1821, he was dismissed at his own request, to be installed the next year over the Congregational church in Burlington, Vt. The great respect

\* Manuscript letter of Mrs. Haskel.





he here acquired, led to his appointment as president of the university, upon the retirement of President Haskel. Owing to adverse influences however, chiefly growing out of cases of discipline, he resigned the office in 1826. Dr. Wheeler, in his historical sketch of the university, observes, "Dr. Preston was connected with the college for so short a time, that little can be said respecting his actual or prospective influence. He was a man remarkable for his gentlemanly and elegant bearing, of simple, genial, and artistic tastes; and in the discharge of his public duties, secured at once the love and admiration of students and of others." Residents in Burlington, still love to speak of his rare eloquence and power in the pulpit, and the simplicity and purity of his christian character.

After leaving Burlington, he turned again toward the southern states, as best suited to his feeble health. He spent some five years preaching at different places as his health allowed, when he accepted a call to the Independent Presbyterian church in Savannah, Ga. Here he continued with unfaltering vigor and industry for nearly a quarter of a century, till his sudden death from paralysis of the heart, on the 26th of April, 1856, in the 71st year of his age. No man could have been more devoted to his people and to his work. At one time, for seven years consecutively, he never left the city save for some ministerial call. During the yellow fever in 1854, he never left his post, but remained faithful to his duties to the sick and the dying and the dead. His congregation were among the largest, most refined and intellectual in the southern states. But besides his pastoral care of his proper parish, he took great interest in the invalid strangers who visited the city. Then by his pulpit efforts, and by his pastoral labor, he sought to fulfill his appointed work; and his death was felt to be a public loss to the city.

Two volumes of his sermons were published in 1857, edited by his son, J. W. Preston, Esq., to which were prefixed a biographical sketch of the author, by Rev. Dr. Talmage, president of Oglethorpe university. To this sketch we are indebted for most of the facts contained in this notice.

*President Marsh.*

BY PRES'T J. TORREY.

James Marsh, fifth president of the University of Vermont, was born at Hartford, in this state, July 19th, 1794. His grandfather, Joseph Marsh, Esq., in whose house

he was born, came from Lebanon, Conn., and established himself at Hartford, about the year 1772. His father, Daniel Marsh, was a respectable farmer, and James spent the first eighteen years of his life at home, assisting his father in the hardy labors of the field, and with the expectation of devoting himself to agriculture as the business of his life. By an unexpected turn in the domestic arrangements, this plan was altered; he was induced to turn his attention to study; and in the year 1813, became a student in Dartmouth college. While at college, in the spring of 1815, during a season of great interest on the subject of religion among the students, he experienced, as he ventured to believe, a radical change of heart, and from that time devoted himself to the work of the Master who had called him. From college, where he gained the highest honors as a scholar, he went immediately to Andover for the purpose of pursuing the study of theology. After a year spent at Andover, he accepted the office of tutor in Dartmouth college, which he held for two years; and then, in the autumn of 1820, he resumed his course of professional studies in the Andover seminary, which without being again interrupted, except by a short sea voyage, and visit to the south, undertaken for the benefit of his health, were completed in September, 1822.

The first labors of Mr. Marsh, after leaving the seminary, were at the south, where he was induced to go by the persuasion of that eminent and excellent man, Dr. John H. Rice of Virginia. Under the patronage and influence of Dr. Rice, he finally became established as a professor in Hampden-Sidney college. Having received this appointment while on a temporary visit to the north, he was ordained as a minister of the gospel at Hanover, N. H., and two days afterwards married Louisa, daughter of James Wheelock, Esq., a niece of John Wheelock, former president of Dartmouth college.

In 1826, after having been connected with Hampden-Sidney college for about three years, Mr. Marsh was appointed in October of that year president of the university in his native state; although the place was not one for which he thought himself in all respects best qualified, many considerations induced him to accept the appointment, and he entered upon the duties of his new office in the same year. It was at a time when the university was suffering under the effects of various calamities, external and internal, and the new president immediately set himself about reviving if possible the spirit of





the institution by a thorough reorganization of the whole system, both of its studies and of its discipline. In this work he was eminently successful.

A sore domestic affliction which President Marsh experienced two years after coming to Burlington in the loss of his excellent wife, to whom he was most devotedly attached, did not divest him from his earnest purpose of making himself useful in his new situation. In less than a year after this great trial, he had already composed his preliminary essay to Coleridge's *Aids to Reflection*, which brought that work for the first time before the American public. This was followed soon after by several other theological and literary works, fully establishing his claim to be considered a man of true philosophical spirit as well as of great attainments in learning and piety. He was twice honored with the degree of doctor of divinity, first by Columbia college, New York in 1830, and then by Amherst college in 1833.

In 1833 he retired from the presidency and accepted the chair of intellectual and moral philosophy, which he continued to occupy for the remainder of his life. In 1835, he was married to Laura Wheelock, a sister of his former wife. She proved a faithful companion to himself, and mother to the children which had been left under her care when their own mother was taken from them, but was herself removed by death in 1838. Four years after sustaining this second heavy trial, on Sunday morning, July 3, 1842, Dr. Marsh departed this life in the 48th year of his life.

I have for the most part abstracted the following account of his character from a letter of mine to Dr. Sprague, which he has inserted in his *Annals of the American Pulpit*.

He exhibited from the earliest, the same elements of character which were afterwards so finely developed by him. Great simplicity, great integrity of mind and singleness of purpose were the master traits. As he never sacrificed one part of his nature to another, so he possessed, in no common degree, a healthy, well-balanced mind. He was neither a man of impulses nor a worshiper of abstractions. Whilst he reverently heeded the deeper instincts of his being, and carefully cherished every stirring of the religious affections, he was, at the same time, extremely cautious of being governed by feelings that had not first been interpreted and justified to reason. On the other hand, he kept a no less careful watch over the workings of the understanding, never

hesitating to discard its conclusions, however seemingly logical, if they contradicted his deeper sense of the right and befitting in a moral point of view. This inward integrity which acted in him as an instinct, but which was firmly grounded in religious principle, gave the tone to everything else; to the character of his piety, to his fine social qualities, to his taste as a scholar, and his whole intellectual character as a theologian and philosopher.

His piety was of the calm and quiet sort, without much pretension — too deeply seated indeed for display. It rather shunned than courted the notice of the world, exhibiting its genuineness and vitality in undoubted fruits; for his many virtues bore all of them preëminently the christian stamp. He seldom or never spoke of his own personal experience in religion: but it was evident that this reserve proceeded neither from barrenness nor affectation, but grew out of the native modesty and retiredness of his disposition. Nor did he ever manifest the fervor or impassioned zeal which is sometimes considered the only sure indication of deep religious feeling. All this was foreign from his nature, and what it would have been impossible for such a man to assume.

In the qualities which make a man prized and beloved in social life, Mr. Marsh had few superiors. Sincerity and kindness of feeling, united with a natural refinement of manners, made his society courted by the good and intelligent everywhere. Amiable and affectionate in his family, generous almost to a fault to his friends, easily approached and courteous to strangers, he was all this without the least affectation. His conversation was marked by habitual good sense, and a delicate regard to the feelings of the society he was in. Candid and simple in uttering his convictions, he was equally so in expressing his doubts, except to those on whom his convictions and his doubts would alike have been thrown away. He had a remarkable power of winning the esteem and affection of young men. His whole intercourse with them was in the truest sense, friendly and parental. He detested that system of authority which had no other way of sustaining itself than by breaking down, as he expressed it, "all the independent spirit and love of study for its own sake." In the youth he revered the man, and by treating him as such, made him conscious that he was one. Delinquents saw, that in dealing with them he was not aiming to build up his own authority by





making them humble and obsequious. The unaffected sincerity of his advice carried it home to the heart, and he insured obedience by making himself loved.

He was as thorough a scholar as earnest and patient labor with rare parts, diverted towards a lofty ideal, can make one. From humble beginnings, with little direction or encouragement from others, but guided and cheered by the whispering of his own hopes, he toiled on until he had laid a broad foundation for the studies to which he had consecrated his life, by mastering all the languages which he thought would be of the least help or service to him in pursuing them. Without ever losing sight of theology, he made himself well acquainted with the literatures of many periods and nations as reflected in the works of their best authors, keeping them all subservient to the one great purpose of attaining to a better understanding of divine truth. It was almost solely with reference to theology that he betook himself to philosophy. In the study of the former he took the profound interest which might be expected from a mind constituted as his was. He felt at once that there were brought before him great questions which never could be settled for him by others, but which he must answer for himself as best he could, with the divine help, and every human means of which he could avail himself. No doubt the school of literature had prepared him to look at these questions with a wider grasp of their bearings than he otherwise would have possessed. At any rate, he did not feel entirely satisfied in his own mind with the course of reasoning by which it was then sought to establish several of the more important doctrines of Christianity. It was with the proofs and explanations, however, not with the doctrines themselves, that he was disposed to find fault. He thought the theology of the day savored too much of a sensual philosophy, and betrayed too much effort, which must necessarily defeat its own purpose of comprehending spiritual things by reducing them to the forms and conditions of a wholly sensuous and sense-bound understanding. The criterion of a true philosophy, according to him, was its adequacy to meet the deepest wants of the human spirit by reconciling faith with reason.

Superficial observers who knew very little about the man or his philosophy, declared him to be a mere disciple of Coleridge. But in reality he neither derived his opinions originally from that writer, nor strongly re-

sembled him in any one point of character, except in ardent, uncompromising love of the truth. The philosophy of Dr. Marsh, was, as much as that of any man can be, of home growth, the result of his own deep study and reflection. If he was indebted to others — as who is not? — he was indebted to them rather for awakening the activity of his own power of thought, than for any immediate infusion of their opinions. He was too honest to himself to be the follower of any school but that of Christ. Had he lived to complete what he had begun, this would have been more clearly seen.

He was not a mere man of the closet, but took a lively interest in all the great questions of his day. His eye was out upon every movement in the literary, political and religious worlds, and was quick to discern its character and tendency. The ready ease with which he scanned such movements showed the life-like, practical character of his knowledge. If any of these questions came by chance to agitate the public mind in the circle in which he moved, he was the first man to stand forth. There was never any holding back with him where great interests were concerned. He threw himself into the midst of the arena, taking his stand at once and decidedly, where he could be seen and read of all men. As a man of principle, he had a rock-like firmness — you felt that you could rely on him, and that the truth was safe in his hands.

Yet in outward appearance, he was a timid and feeble-looking man. There was nothing commanding about him in attitude, voice, or gesture. The moral and intellectual expression conveyed in every look and tone of his voice, when he spoke on a great subject, was all the outward advantage he had to secure for him a patient and respectful attention. But this, in connection with the weighty sense of his discourse, always proved sufficient.

To sum up all in a word, he united together in his character, all the elements which conciliate the esteem of the good, with all that command the respect of the wise, and was one of the very few of the generation in which he lived truly deserving the name of a Christian philosopher.

*President Wheeler.*

BY PRES'T J. TORREY.

John Wheeler, the son of John Brooks Wheeler, Esq., was born in Grafton, Vt., March 11, 1798, and was graduated at Dartmouth college in 1816. He was the young-





est member of class 11, remarkable for the number who afterwards became men of influence and reputation. Immediately after leaving college, he entered upon his theological studies at Andover, Mass., in the same class with Presidents Smith and Wayland, Professors Torrey, Haddock and Repbey, Rev. Dr. King, missionary to Greece, and a number more distinguished men. Few American scholars have had a larger circle of valuable acquaintance and friends. On leaving Andover in 1819, he spent some months in the service of the gospel in the southern states, mostly in Georgia. On returning north, he was soon called to settle over a congregational church in Windsor, where he was installed in 1821. He remained there some twelve years, an acceptable pastor and preacher. As early as 1824, he was elected president of the university, but at that time thought best to decline the appointment. It was offered him the second time, and accepted in 1833.

From that time forward till 1848, when the health of his family led him to resign his position, he devoted all his energies to the welfare of the university. He was connected with the institution as one of the corporation as early as 1825, and retained this charge till his death, April 16, 1862. In both relations he had served the institution for a longer time than any other man. He raised up friends for it; he secured large and generous subscriptions for it; and carried it through seasons of perplexity and trial. In connection with Drs. Marsh, Torrey, and G. W. Benedict, he carried out its system of instruction, and maintained its standard of scholarship and general spirit. No man set a juster estimate upon the relation of higher institutions of learning to the welfare and permanent prosperity of the state.

In later years, Dr. Wheeler's attention was largely given to other public interests affecting the well-being of the community and the nation. He was interested in the internal improvements of the state, and in the political questions agitating the country. In politics he belonged to the school of Webster and Everett. In social life too, he belonged rather to the gentlemen of the old school, with a keen sense of good breeding, and all the proprieties of refined life.

As president of the university he is remembered by many of the alumni as a valued adviser and friend; as a preacher, for occasional displays of a rare order of eloquence, rising fully to the dignity and

greatness of his theme; while as a man and a citizen, his memory will be cherished for his large and conservative views. Almost the last act of his life was a generous donation to the institution to which he had given the best of his days.

[We here resume Mr. Clark's article.—*Ed.*]

#### GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The whole number of those who have received literary honors from the university, inclusive of the year 1861, is 1,243. Of these 720 graduated after a course of study in the college proper; 236 from the medical department, and 287 have received honorary degrees. The graduates of the university are to be found in all professions, and in all parts of this country and of the world.

In the ministry it is represented by such men as Rev. Drs. Chandler, Fisher, Bowman, Houghton, Pease and Shedd; by Rev. Jehudi Ashmun devoted to the cause of the colored race, and governor of Liberia, by Rev. Dr. T. M. Worcester, missionary to the Cherokees, and some of the most active men now in the Turkish and Armenian fields; and by Profs. Burgess and Robertson who left their chairs in the university to engage in the work of missions. In the legal profession, it has worthy representatives, in its oldest graduate, Charles Adams, Esq., in Jacob Collamer, LL. D., called by his opponents the ablest lawyer in the United States senate, in Judge Aldis and other well-known lawyers in this state. Some twenty of the graduates of the university are now engaged in editorial life, including editors of two of the leading journals in New York city, the *Times* and the *World*. The man who has for years had charge of public education in the city of St. Louis, the president of the Pacific university in Oregon, and the oldest lawyer in San Francisco, and trustee of a college in California, are graduates of the university. Like its sister institutions, the university is acting a worthy part in the great work of human progress.

#### BURLINGTON ACADEMY.

This institution sprang into being about 1820. In 1810 the village of Burlington, besides an incipient college, had the literary advantage of 4 school districts, where reading, writing and cyphering were taught the children in as many little buildings of one room. Here the Hickoks, Hitchcocks, Keyes and others of youthful promise struggled for the mastery in more sense than one. In





cuffs with each other. He that is now Gen. Ethan Allen Hitchcock may well remember the little brick school house on St. Paul's street where he then attended school, taught by his brother Henry, who afterwards stood so high at the bar in Mobile, Ala. But so inferior literary advantages scarcely would content the rising town. In 1812 the plan was changed, separate districts were abandoned. A lot was purchased corner of College and Willard streets, and the building now called "the academy," was erected for a graded school where all the children were collected in different rooms under the care of a principal teacher. The first principal was named Caulkings. The change was in the right direction. The older children were immediately advanced to higher studies and many boys were put in preparation for college.

The increase of population, after a few years made another advance necessary, and the result of discussion at the district school meeting, was the result of redistricting of the village, the erections, at once, of 7 new school houses in as many neighborhoods, and the surrender of the academy to a corporation called the Burlington Academy to be sustained by a charge for tuition on scholars. This system continued until 1849. In December of that year 5 districts of the village united to form a Union district. To this Union district the corporators surrendered the academy and now (1863) for 14 years the present plan has been in vogue, and gives good satisfaction to the parents and scholars who improve its advantages. The number of pupils under the corporation was from 30 to 50; under the Union it has been from 70 to 100. The building, a very fine one in 1820, centrally located, has answered all purposes to the present time. At the close of this unhappy civil war a new and more expensive building may be expected; and the culture there given to many youth of both sexes, will be remembered long after the academy, so called, shall have given place to its successor with new name and further promise of usefulness.

In the academy the question of separate or mixed schools, so often agitated, has been settled in favor of the latter. Under its earliest preceptor, good Master Caulkings, both sexes attended; yet a boy's school exclusively was the idea of its patrons when the district was divided, and as was supposed, a higher school instituted at the academy; but at present it embraces both sexes in the same school, to the eminent advantage of each.

## BURLINGTON FEMALE SEMINARY.

BY REV. JOHN K. CONVERSE.

The Burlington Female Seminary is believed to be the oldest and the first incorporated institution in the state for the exclusive education of young ladies.

It commenced its course of instruction in May, 1835, and received its charter from the state, Nov. 15, 1836. During the 27 years of its existence, it has received a liberal and well earned patronage, and had under its instruction more than 1600 pupils, from 19 different states, from Scotland and the Canadas, who are now found in almost every part of the world, filling all positions that woman can adorn with intelligence and virtue.

The seminary is situated on a gentle slope fronting towards Lake Champlain, distant about 100 rods. It has ample grounds, and is surrounded with evergreens and other native trees of luxuriant growth. Its location, in one of the most beautiful and healthy villages of New England, commanding, as it does, one of the richest and most picturesque views of the lake, its islands and the distant mountain scenery, is pleasant, and appropriate for a literary institution.

The course of study, drawn up mainly by the Rev. Joseph Torrey, D. D., has special reference to method, adaptation and completeness.

About one-half or 800 of the alumnae, have finished the prescribed course, many of them in connection with music, drawing, painting, German or Italian.

Some facts connected with the starting of the seminary claim a brief notice. It commenced under difficulties.

The writer of this article began his labors as pastor of the First Calvinistic Congregational church in Burlington, in April, 1832. When he came to his field of labor, he was greatly surprised by one very singular fact, viz.: that Burlington, "the Queen city of the lake," with a population of 4,000 inhabitants, with large wealth and a good college in the place, *had not a student in college any where on earth*—not one. This, and some kindred facts, led the young pastor at once to resolve to use what influence he might have to advance the cause of common and higher education, and settled in his mind the conviction, that the work of a pastor comprises not only the spiritual, but also and equally the intellectual culture of his flock. He at once formed a plan of a school for the higher education of girls; explained his plan to leading men in the place who





had daughters to be educated; endeavored to convince them that some \$2,000 or \$3,000 that they were paying out to educate their daughters in expensive schools abroad, would go far towards sustaining a good school at home. The plan, however, met with little encouragement. The common reply was, that the thing proposed could not be done; that the college was suffering for want of material aid, and that if we could not sustain the college, we certainly could not sustain both the college and a seminary. Rev. Dr. James Marsh, then president of the university, was about the only man who encouraged the plan, believing that any enterprise that would rouse the attention to, and enlist the zeal of the community in the matter of education, would equally benefit the university. The plan of the pastor finding little encouragement, as has been stated, was dropped for the time, but by no means abandoned.

It must not be inferred from the facts above stated, that the good people of Burlington were deficient either in liberality or in their appreciation of good learning. On the contrary, at the period referred to, in 1832 and 1833, they evinced their estimation of education by a subscription of some \$20,000 for the University of Vermont. In further explanation, it should be noticed that Burlington, being the principal port on Lake Champlain, early became an important commercial centre; wealth was rapidly acquired, and hence the energies of the people, and especially those of young men, were turned away from the gardens of literature and absorbed in the channels of commerce. Hence, none of her youth were found in the college. But this state of things was soon changed for the better.

Near the close of the next year (1834), the subject of establishing a seminary for the education of young ladies was revived and discussed. A fund of \$30,000 had just been raised by subscription for the college, and those who had opened their hearts in this good work, were willing to enjoy still further the luxury of doing good. The writer of this article, meanwhile, had had correspondence with Miss Mary C. Green, then of Windsor, with reference to taking charge, if the effort should be successful. The plan was again discussed with a few leading men who had daughters to be educated. On the 9th of March following, he also called a meeting at Col. Thomas's hotel, explained the object to the meeting when assembled, and presented facts to

show that the amount paid from Burlington for the education of daughters abroad, would sustain a good board of teachers at home. A committee was appointed to consider the subject and report. At an adjourned meeting, the committee made a favorable report, and the subject was taken up in good earnest. The large brick house of the late Hon. Wm. A. Griswold was chartered for the school, and funds were subscribed for erecting an additional building. The services of Miss Green were secured as preceptress—a lady who most happily combined a solid judgment and a large degree of executive energy with the accomplishments of a true woman. The school was opened in May, 1835. An ample charter was granted by the legislature, and the following named gentlemen were elected by the corporators the first board of trustees, viz.: Hon. Alvan Foote, N. B. Haswell, Esq., Jno. S. Potwin, Esq., Henry Mayo, Esq., Prof. Geo. W. Benedict, E. T. Englesby, Esq., George P. Marsh, Esq., Harry Bradley, Esq., Sion E. Howard, Esq., Udney H. Penniman, Esq., Samuel Dinsmore, Esq., Geo. B. Manser, Esq., Hon. Wm. A. Griswold. To the efficient action of this board of trustees and to the liberality and coöperation of a few other individuals, the seminary was greatly indebted for its prosperous beginning.

The seminary has no permanent funds. It has been sustained from the first by the income from tuition. In 1840 it was removed to its present site, in the buildings formerly erected by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Hopkins for his residence and for a theological seminary. The exact number of pupils it has had under its instruction can not be accurately stated, as no record of the attendance from 1841 to 1844 can be found. The records at hand show the names of 1600 or more.

#### TEACHERS.

The following is a list of the several teachers who have been employed in the different departments of instruction, from 1835 to '63. The figures denote the dates when they became connected with the seminary. A star marks the names of those deceased.

*Principals.*—Miss Mary C. Green,\* 1835; Miss Thirza Lee, 1841; Mrs. Martha O. Paine, 1842; Rev. J. K. Converse, 1844; Rev. B. W. Smith, associate principal, 1848.

*Teachers of the English and Latin Languages, Mathematics and the Natural Sciences.*—Mr. Andrew Robertson, Miss Harriet N. Smith, Miss Mary D. Chase,\* Miss Mary A. Poor,





Miss Lucy Baldwin, Miss Adeline Prichard, Miss Sarah R. Chase, Miss Catharine Fleming, Miss Samantha Bascom, Miss Caroline Paine, Mr. Stephen W. Hitchcock,\* Miss Eliza Jane Hunt,\* Miss Sophia E. Barnard,\* Miss Loraine M. Gilbert, Miss Frances A. Hale, Miss Julia L. Chapman, Miss Roxa M. Champlin, Miss Dora L. Merrill, Miss Emily C. Sawyer.

*Teachers of French.*—Miss Lucie A. Mignault, Mr. R. S. M. Bouchette, Mr. Stephen W. Hitchcock,\* Miss Minerva A. Sawyer, Miss Frances A. Hale, Mrs. E. Jaquemart, Miss Jane Herbert, Miss Clara Stacy, Miss S. A. Higgs.

*Teachers of Piano and Vocal Music.*—Prof. T. F. Molt,\* 1835 to 1842; Miss Harriet Hosford, 1842; Miss Cornelia J. Hall, 1843; Miss Mary A. Bender; Miss Martha A. Williams, 1844; Prof. J. S. Moore, 1846; Mrs. C. F. Davey; Miss Mary A. Curtis, 1847; Prof. T. F. Molt,\* 1847; Prof. T. E. Molt, 1846; Miss Lizzie E. Converse; Prof. Herman F. Molt, 1856; Prof. W. W. Patridge.

*Teachers of Drawing, &c.*—Prof. J. H. Hills, 1835; Mr. Henry Searle, Mrs. Theresa Bassett, Miss Omira B. Bottum, Miss Marion P. Hooker, Miss Elizabeth M. Barnes.

*Teachers of Oil Painting.*—Miss Marion P. Hooker, 1848; Miss Sarah J. Parker; Miss Harriet Kilburn; Mr. Isaac L. Williams, 1852; Miss Sarah E. Converse, 1853.

In addition to the above, a considerable number of pupils selected from the highest class, with regard to their scholarship, have been employed as assistant teachers in the English and Latin departments.

Here much might be justly said of the talents and earnest devotion of several whose names are found in the above list of teachers. But this is not the place to speak of the living. In respect to the dead, we may speak of their good works which follow them, and in which they still live in the memory and affections of hundreds whose minds were formed by their power.

#### *Miss Mary C. Green,*

The first principal of the seminary, was born in Windsor, in the year 1800. Of her parentage and childhood, we have no knowledge, but at an early age she evinced an unusual maturity of intellect. We are not informed at what school she pursued the higher studies. She began the work of teaching, which she loved, at an early age. She was the efficient principal of the seminary from its origin in 1835 to February,

1841, when she resigned her charge with a view to accepting an invitation from a friend to travel in Europe. In 1844 or 5, she married William E. Mayhew, Esq., a merchant of Baltimore, Md., who, in former years, had been a partner in trade with Mr. George Peabody, now the distinguished American banker, in London. Mrs. Mayhew died at Baltimore, in 1856, having adorned a useful life with the attainments of the scholar and the graces of the true christian.

#### *Miss Mary D. Chase*

Of Randolph, one of the first graduates of the seminary, became the head assistant teacher under Miss Green, about the year 1838. Miss Chase was a young lady of superior mind, accurate scholarship, and of most amiable spirit. But her course of usefulness was destined to be brief. A few months after entering upon her duties, she fell into a fatal decline and passed away, beloved and mourned by all who knew her.

"So fades the lovely, blooming flower,  
Frail, smiling solace of an hour."

#### *Prof. Theodore F. Molt*

Was born in Gschwend, in the kingdom of Wittenburg, Germany, Feb. 13th, 1795. His father, John Frederick Molt, was a member and officer in the Lutheran church, and for many years was organist in the church at Gschwend.

Mr. Molt received the elements of a good classical and mathematical education. But soon after he entered the university, he, either by enlistment or conscription, became a soldier in Bonaparte's army. He belonged to what was called the foreign department of the army. Though young he soon attracted the notice of his superiors, and was promoted to the place of accountant and assistant paymaster in his regiment.

When the battle of Waterloo was approaching, his regiment, then 30 miles distant on the frontier, was ordered to Waterloo. They reached Waterloo on the day of the battle, too late to participate in the strife, but not too late to survey that fatal field, strewn with the dead and dying—a scene which ever after lived in vivid remembrance in his mind.

He now returned home—chose music for his profession, and devoted himself to it with true German perseverance. He had received in his boyhood his first lessons from his father and from an older brother who was distinguished for his attainments in the "divine art." After leaving the army he be-





came, first, the pupil of Czerny—then of Moschelles in London. He also had the acquaintance and assistance of Beethoven, Frans Schubert and other distinguished pianists and composers.

Prof. Molt came to this country in 1823. Landing in Quebec, he found employment for some years, but preferring a location in the states, he came to Burlington in the fall of 1833, and commenced his labors as a teacher of piano music. Pupils in music were few—his prospects were discouraging, and in 1834, he had nearly decided to go elsewhere. But the writer of this article obtained for him a few pupils, and encouraged him to stay, by the hope that the *plan of establishing a seminary for young ladies would be soon realized*. On opening the school in May, 1835, he became the teacher of music, which place he filled with distinguished ability, with the exception of a short interval, until his death in 1856. By his ability as a teacher and his courteous bearing as a gentleman, he uniformly won the respect of his pupils.

Prof. Molt devoted himself with singular earnestness to his profession, giving lessons usually from 10 to 12 hours daily, and even then finding some hours to bestow on the musical works he was preparing for the press. His contributions to the science of music and of musical instruction, have been highly appreciated by professors in the art, especially his more recent works—*Progressive Lessons* and *Teacher's Guide*. The former has no superior as a work for beginners.

Prof. Molt's laborious life closed after a short illness Nov. 16, 1856.

*Stephen Washington Hitchcock,*

A very acceptable and successful teacher of the French language from November, 1846, to November, 1849, was a native of Mount St. Hillaire, Canada East. His earlier education was acquired in the best French schools in the province, and he was graduated at the University of Vermont. He was a fine scholar—an earnest christian, unassuming and genial in manners; a young man of great promise, and a favorite with all who knew him. On resigning his place in the seminary, he accepted an appointment from the trustees of Middlebury Female seminary as principal of that school. He commenced his labors in Middlebury in the spring of 1851. August 18th of that year, he was married to Miss Sophia C. Stevens, daughter of Henry Stevens, Esq., of Barnet (now of Burlington). Miss Stevens had been his pupil at Burlington. He was successful and much

beloved in his new field of labor. But his period of usefulness was short. In May, 1852, he was attacked with bleeding at the lungs, and it was soon apparent that he was a victim of consumption, which terminated his life in August, 1852. After his death his widow spent some 8 years in the Schools of Design in Paris and in Rome, and is now the wife of William Page, Esq., the artist and author of "Venus" which has been on exhibition recently in most of our cities.

*Miss Sophia E. Barnard,*

Whose name is starred in the list of teachers, was from Salisbury, Conn., and was one of the earliest graduates of the seminary. Her family, in her childhood, removed to Little Falls, N. Y. On the opening of the seminary, she was entered as a pupil. Some 6 years after finishing the course of study, she was invited to return as the head lady teacher. She taught 1 year, when she was suddenly called home by the illness of her affianced husband, a young physician of character, wealth and brilliant prospects. It was not expected that their marriage would be consummated for a year or two; but her intended husband, becoming suddenly worse—fearing that he should not survive and wishing to leave his estate to the object of his affections, he sent for her at midnight. At his house, and standing in her slippers at his bedside, she was married to him in presence of friends and an attorney who had been called in to make his last will. The young physician passed through the crisis of his disease and recovered, but his companion was spared to him but a few short years, when she was called to exchange the prospects of earth for the better portion in heaven. Miss Barnard was endowed with many personal attractions, and was a fine scholar and true woman.

*Miss Eliza Jane Hunt*

Filled the place of first lady teacher, for nearly four years from March, 1845. Miss Hunt was born in Bath, N. H., Aug. 28, 1824, where she spent the years of her childhood. Her parents subsequently removed to Ilaverhill, N. H., where she enjoyed the advantages of the academy in that place. Some of the higher studies in her course were pursued at Montpelier, under the direction of Mr. Calvin Pease, now Dr. Pease, and recently president of the University of Vermont. Miss Hunt excelled as a successful teacher. She was a lady of solid talents, good judgment and prudent deportment; accurate in scholar-





ship, gentle and lady-like in manners, but ever firm and decided for the right. She possessed a ready insight into character, and was seldom mistaken in her judgment. She also possessed that rare quality so essential, to successful teaching, viz.: the power, not only to communicate her instructions with clearness, but also the power of following those instructions into the mind of the pupil, and seeing how they are received and deposited in that mind. The ability to do which is one of the highest qualifications of a teacher.

Miss Hunt was united in marriage with John B. Wheeler, Esq., of Burlington, eldest son of ex-president Wheeler, in October, 1852. Having adorned this new position with intelligence and the graces of a christian, for the space of 4 years, she departed this life Nov. 7th, 1856.

Of the 1600 pupils who have been connected with the seminary from its origin, 81 deaths are known to have occurred. The actual number of deaths is presumed to be near 100, as from the wide dispersion of the pupils, some deaths have probably occurred not known to the writer. The mortality therefore, in 27 years, would probably amount to only about 16 per cent.

One important fact we would here notice with devout gratitude to God. During the 17 years that the present principal has had charge of the seminary, with the *average* number of 29 boarders per quarter, there has never been a death among the boarders, nor has there ever been among us any epidemic, or prevalent disease, which is certainly an unusual exemption, and conclusive proof of the healthiness of our location.

The office of the principal has been filled in the order of time, as follows: Miss Mary C. Green, from May, 1835, to February, 1841; Miss Thirza Lee, from February, 1841, to February, 1842.

At this time the trustees and patrons of the school deemed it important that a gentleman should be placed at the head, and the Rev. Lyman Coleman was elected as principal. Mr. Coleman declined the appointment, and Mrs. Martha O. Paine was elected principal, February, 1842. On her resignation, in the spring of 1844, the exercises of the seminary were suspended until September of that year, when Rev. J. K. Converse, then pastor of the First Calvinistic Congregational church in Burlington, was elected principal by the trustees, and is still in charge of the institution.

The seminary, as has been remarked, has

never had any corporate fund. Soon after the present principal commenced his duties, he purchased the two right hand buildings (see plate), which had previously been rented for the school, investing therein some \$15,000. These two buildings have been well filled with pupils during his administration, until a few months since, when he sold the south, or right hand building, for other purposes. The seminary is now conducted in the large central building, which is most pleasantly situated and convenient in its arrangements. The number of pupils is limited to 40, one-half of whom can be accommodated with residence and board in the family of the principal, where they will be under the constant care of the teachers, in respect to morals, manners, and mental culture, and enjoy all the comforts and kind attentions of a pleasant home.

In reviewing the years the writer has spent in charge of this institution, he feels he has not labored in vain, and the present and future well-being of his many hundred pupils will ever be near his heart, and remembered at that throne where alone such remembrance can be availing.

In the state of society which exists among us, it is the peculiar privilege of an American to win his way by the culture and use of his own powers, with the certainty, that success will wait on real merit. And this is as true of the *young woman* as of the *young man*. Wealth and family have great weight in the start of both, but in the long run, superior intellectual and moral worth will win, no matter what may have been the disadvantages of the possessor, provided the resolution to be true to one's self comes not too late. While looking over the names of those who have been under my instruction, I see many happy illustrations of this remark. During the last 17 years the seminary has assisted 81 young ladies to an education by waiting on them, on *certain conditions*, for the whole or a portion of their bills, until they could earn the means of cancelling them, after completing the course of study. The obligations assumed by such pupils, with a few exceptions, have been honorably met. And those thus aided, as compared with others, have generally excelled in earnest application, and are now seen to occupy some of the highest stations of influence and usefulness. In a large number of cases, it is not the advantages of birth or fortune that have decided the destiny of my pupils, or have given them the stations they now hold, but it was education, culture, character.





## YOUNG LADIES' SCHOOL.

The Young Ladies' school on Locust street, Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Worcester, principals, was commenced by Mrs. Worcester, then Miss Catharine Fleming, in March, 1845.

It was continued by her after her marriage with Mr. Worcester, then pastor of the Calvinistic Congregational church in Burlington; and in 1855, Mr. Worcester, having resigned his pastoral charge, became a principal teacher in the school.

Receiving but a limited number of pupils, the school has seldom been able to accommodate all applicants, and was never in more flourishing condition than at present.

The school is furnished with apparatus for experimental illustrations in natural philosophy and chemistry, and much attention is given to instruction in mental and moral science.

The instructors at this date (March, 1862), are Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Worcester, principals; Mlle. L. Eugenie Gangloff, Miss Kate Fessenden, Miss Lydia L. Hodges, and Miss Julia Fleming, in the literary department, and Messrs. T. E. Molt and S. C. Moore, in music.

## THE YOUNG LADIES' SEMINARY.

BY REV. B. W. SMITH.

The Young Ladies' seminary, conducted by Rev. and Mrs. B. W. Smith, occupies the building and grounds formerly occupied by the Burlington Female seminary, situated at the south end of Church street, retired from the noise and bustle of the business part of the town, and yet within five minutes' walk of the heart of the village. It opened its first session in September, 1860, and from that time to the present has enjoyed a fair amount of patronage from the citizens of the town and state, and from other states and Canada.

There is also connected with the institution, a department for the education of lads and young men who may wish to prepare themselves for mercantile and other business, or for college, which has also been well attended. In the latter department the pupils attend mostly as day scholars; a few, however, have been accommodated with rooms and board.

There are connected with the institution 6 able and experienced teachers. The department of French being under the instruction of a lady of Parisian birth and education, and that of piano music, of Prof. T. E. Molt, who has been a most successful teacher for the last 15 or 20 years.

## CHURCH HISTORY.

## CONGREGATIONALISM IN BURLINGTON.

BY REV. A. FLEMING.

From 1783 to 1800 the population of Burlington had increased from about 40 persons to 600; and in the year 1800 there were 6 stores in town—but there was no minister settled until 1810, and no house of worship erected until 1812. Previous to the year 1800, the privileges of public worship were but rarely enjoyed, even by the few who desired them, from the occasional ministrations of itinerant missionaries and other transient preachers of various sorts.

It appears, however, that about the close of the year 1799, the village took a new and vigorous start in growth and prosperity, and a commendable degree of public spirit was awakened among the leading men of the place for promoting public interests, which had been hitherto neglected. Among these were the institution of public worship, and the practical inauguration of the university which had been chartered and located here by the state. In Aug. 1799, the Rev. Daniel C. Sanders was released from his pastoral charge in Vergennes, and as soon as this was known in Burlington, some of its leading men took measures to have him remove to this place, for the double purpose of preaching steadily to the people, and of attempting to get the university into practical operation. He was engaged to preach steadily for \$400 per annum, besides whatever he should obtain for his services as an instructor. He removed hither and began his labors in November of that year, preaching in the Court house on the sabbath, and instructing a few pupils in his own house, at first as a preparatory school. In 1800 he was elected president of the university, but was its sole instructor for some time. His salary for preaching was raised, the first year altogether voluntarily, but after that by a town tax for \$200, and \$200 by voluntary subscription. In this way was public worship supported until 1810. From the minutes of a town meeting is taken the following extract:

"Voted, to raise \$200 on the grand list of 1799, to be paid in grain, beef, pork, butter or cheese, to be delivered to the minister who shall be hired in Burlington for the year ensuing, at his dwelling house in Burlington, on or before the 25th day of December next."

In 1805 a petition was presented to the selectmen, to warn a town meeting in reference to building a meeting house and supporting "social and public worship," agree-





able to the form and effect of the statute entitled "An act for the support of the gospel," passed Oct. 26, 1797. The meeting was held, and under the act referred to, the inhabitants of the town formed themselves into a society by the name of the First society for social and public worship in the town of Burlington. Hitherto they had done this informally as a town; now the town was organized as a parish, for the purpose specified. In 1809 this society took measures to have a meeting house built, but this was never done by that society.

In the year 1805 also, was formed another important organized body, namely: the First Christian church ever formed in this town. On the 21st of February of that year, 14 persons, members of churches chiefly in Connecticut, met at the house of Moses Catlin, and after a repeated perusal of articles of faith and a form of church covenant, prepared by Rev. President Sanders, agreed to enter into covenant with God and one another, as a church of Christ, and in testimony thereof signed the articles and covenant. On the 23d, immediately after sermon, the articles and covenant were read, and assent to them being continued, they were publicly declared, by Pres't Sanders, to be a regular church of the Lord Jesus Christ, established in Burlington. This is the same church now known, by way of distinction from another which was formed 5 years afterwards, by the name of the First Calvinistic Congregational church in Burlington. The names of its original members are these: Ebenezer Lyman, Daniel Coit, Ozias Buel, Daniel C. Sanders, Abigail Catlin, Sarah Atwater, Anna Lyman, Nancy Sanders, Amelia Tuttle, Abigail Buel, Mirriam Whetmore, Clarissa Lyman, Lucinda Catlin. Of these Mrs. Clarissa Lyman is the only one now living (March, 1863). Rev. President Sanders was elected their moderator and clerk, and served as such until their first pastor was ordained. The church thus organized, enjoyed the ministrations of Pres't Sanders and others, in common with the inhabitants of the town who chose to do so. But it does not appear that the church had any voice in the choice of the minister to be hired. But here it should be noted, however, that in an unsuccessful attempt to settle a minister in 1806, and again in 1810, the church had a separate vote in the matter, and the concurrence of both the church and the society was evidently understood to be necessary for the settlement of a minister.

Besides the preaching of Pres't Sanders,

who officiated steadily until 1807, the Rev. Sam'l Williams, LL. D., also preached, more or less, in the years 1807 and 1808, while here superintending the publication of the second edition of his *History of Vermont*—and in 1809, Rev. Willard Preston and Rev. Amariah Chandler, then licentiates, also labored here, very much to the acceptance of the church, but declined being candidates for settlement. As the fruit of their labor under God, the church received its first increase in August of this year—an addition of 10 persons—9 of them by a profession of faith and 1 by letter from another church. The whole number of the church was now 21—3 of the original number having died.

At this point of the history, it may be proper to remark that two parties had been growing and were now grown to maturity among the people, respecting the doctrines and the preaching of the gospel. The one was the "liberal party" so called by themselves, who had a strong aversion to the strict doctrines and manner of religious life so characteristic of the early times in New England, and who preferred instead "moral preaching" in which the puritanic doctrines of grace should be ignored. The other party was the orthodox, or Calvinistic party, so called in the language of that day. The church mostly were of this party, and also a respectable minor part of the society who sympathized with the church and adhered to its fortunes. The preaching and influence of Pres't Sanders undoubtedly fostered the liberal party rather than the other, although he was a member of the church and had subscribed to its articles of faith, which were substantially, though not fully and explicitly on all points, Calvinistic. And until 1809, when Messrs. Preston and Chandler preached here, there was very little preaching and ministerial influence of a kind to foster the orthodox, or as sometimes called the "Connecticut party." Hence the Liberal party, now known as the Unitarians, became decidedly the greatest in number, means and popular influence.

Sometime in the fall of 1809, these two parties had their two candidates for settlement—Mr. Samuel Clark, Jr., from Massachusetts, was the favorite of the Unitarian party, as now we may call it; and Mr. Daniel Haskel, from Connecticut, the preferred candidate of the Calvinistic party. The latter, as the evidence seems to us to indicate, was engaged by the authority of the proper committee; the other by some individuals con-





nected with the liberal party. However that may be, Mr. Clark came first and began to preach, and soon after Mr. Haskel came.

On the 1st day of January, 1810, after Mr. Clark had finished his time of probation, the society met in the Court house to deliberate and vote on the question of settling Mr. Clark as their minister. The church met at the same time by themselves for the same purpose. A decided majority of the society voted to settle Mr. Clark; but the majority of the church declined to have him settled **over them** as their pastor. Mr. Clark intimated his readiness to be settled if the church were united with the society in the call, otherwise he declined. Here was a difficulty; but it was speedily surmounted by the expedient of dissolving the old society and forming a new one, on the entirely voluntary principle of the adherents and friends of Mr. Clark; and also forming a new church for him (which was done at the time of his ordination), on the basis of the same articles and church covenant on which the first church had been formed in 1805.

The minority of the society also formed themselves into a new society, and took the name of the First Calvinistic Congregational society in Burlington. By them, at their first meeting, Mr. Haskel was adopted as their candidate for settlement; and after preaching the usual period of probation was unanimously elected by them in concurrence with the church. An ecclesiastical council was forthwith convened from the ministers and churches in the vicinity, and Mr. Haskel was regularly ordained to the christian ministry and installed as pastor of the church and minister of the society, April 10, 1810.

Mr. Clark was ordained on the 19th of the same month by a council—all from Massachusetts, save one minister from Rockingham, Vt. The two societies and their ministers very wisely and amicably divided between them the public right of land given by charter to the minister first settled in town.

Mr. Haskel and his people worshipped in the Court house at such times and hours of the day as they could find it unoccupied; and afterwards, by leave of the corporation, in the chapel of the college. In 1812 the first house of worship in town was erected by this church and society and dedicated to the worship of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. It was consumed by fire, kindled by an incendiary, on the morning of June 23d, 1839, and replaced by the present edifice, dedicated April 14, 1842.

Mr. Haskel was elected to the presidency of the university in 1821, and was dismissed from his pastoral charge June 22, 1822, in order to enter on the duties of that office. He was a man and a minister eminently fitted for the times and the place and work to which he was called in Burlington. His learning was deep and extensive, chiefly in the region of metaphysical philosophy; his theology was of the old school, consistently held, clearly expressed, and constantly inculcated in his preaching; his influence among his people and in the community was sedate, kindly and conciliating; and ultimately he secured not only the esteem of his people, but even the respect of the enemies of the cause which he upheld.

During the pastorate of Mr. Haskel the church increased in number from 21 to 91; and, what was of more consequence, by his preaching was well grounded and built up in the faith, and established in the knowledge and acknowledgment of the evangelical system of divine truth and grace.

[For further biography of Mr. Haskel see biographies of the presidents of the university by Prof. Clark.—*Ed.*]

The second pastor of this church was the Rev. Willard Preston, who was installed Aug. 22, 1822.

The third pastor of the church was the Rev. Reuben Smith, installed May 3, 1826. During his ministry numerous conversions took place in the congregation, and the church was increased in number and piety.

The fourth pastor of the church was Rev. John K. Converse, installed Aug. 8, 1832; during whose pastorate a portion of the church were set off and formed into a new church (the church in Winooski).

The fifth pastor of the church was the Rev. John H. Worcester, installed March 10, 1847.

The sixth pastor of the church was Rev. Spencer Marsh, ordained and installed Nov. 6, 1855. Mr. Marsh was dismissed from his pastoral office Feb. 8, 1860.

The seventh pastor of the church is Rev. Eldridge Mix, installed Sept. 4, 1862.

In 1860, a new congregational church and society were formed in this place, chiefly of members of this church and society. The Third Congregational church was organized on sabbath, Nov. 4, 1860; and on Dec. 26 the Rev. George B. Safford was settled over them.

The whole number of those who, by a hopeful conversion and public profession of faith, have united with the church since it was formed in the year 1805 is 612. The present membership (1861) is 311, about 200 of





whom are resident members. The Third Congregational church number 320.

#### UNITARIANISM IN BURLINGTON.

*Commemorative Sermon—Half Century—  
April 29, 1860.*

BY REV. JOSHUA YOUNG.

"Other men labored and ye are entered into their labors."—JOHN, IV, 38.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the coming in of the present century, the religious affairs of Burlington, but a small place of 200 or 300 souls, were in a very unsettled state. It was in this respect, as a frontier town, many of its early settlers being either indisposed or indifferent to religious institutions; preaching rarely enjoyed, and the sabbath, too often, only a day of relaxation. Some of the inhabitants, however, who had been brought up in a different state of things, and taught to respect religion, were very unwilling to be shut out from religious privileges, and therefore made efforts to secure in part the performance of religious worship on Sunday.

They first commenced with the reading of a printed sermon, which was approved of and well attended. About this time it was understood that the Rev. Daniel C. Sanders had closed his engagement at Vergennes, and was at liberty to preach wherever his services might be requested. Immediately on ascertaining this, David Russell, Esq., and Dr. John Pomeroy—most honorable names intimately associated with the beginning and growth both of this town and this society—rode to Vergennes and engaged him to preach at Burlington, holding themselves personally responsible for the payment of his salary. Afterwards, being chosen first president of the University of Vermont, then just coming into life, he became for a time a stated minister in town, and regularly officiated in the Court house, there being no house of worship in the place.

Dr. Sanders' first introduction to Burlington was, I am informed, a sermon which he preached by request on the death of Gen. Washington, soon after that national bereavement in December, 1799. One who heard that discourse is still a member\* of our congregation, and gives his recollections of it as a lad, impressed by its eloquence and solemnity. The text was from Deut., 34th chap., 70th verse: "His eye was not dim nor his natural force abated;" and the ob-

ject of the sermon was to portray by a comparison of the lives of Moses and Washington, the manner in which the Infinite Disposer of events controls the affairs of nations, by his direction of the lives of individuals.

From an examination of the first records of the town, it appears that in June, 1805, the 5th day of the month, more than 7 of the substantial freeholders of Burlington joined in petition to Geo. Robinson, town clerk, to warn a meeting of the inhabitants of said town, for the purpose of forming themselves into a society for social and public worship, agreeable to the form and effect of the statute, entitled "An act for the support of the gospel," passed Oct. 26, 1797.

This petition was signed by Wm. C. Harrington, Lyman King, Osias Buell, Arza Crane, Elnathan Keyes, Moses Catlin, David Russell, James Sawyer, Saml. Hickok, John Pomeroy, Horace Loomis.

Accordingly, the people met without distinction of opinions, and voted unanimously to form themselves into a society by the name of the First society for social and public worship in the town of Burlington; and the society was formed.

Nearly four years passed over, and the next public record of ecclesiastical affairs is the 7th article in the warning of the annual town meeting for March 20, 1809. In this interval, however, in the year 1807, Dr. Saml. Williams of Rutland, a graduate from Harvard college, and for some time a lecturer on natural philosophy to that institution, came to Burlington for the purpose of superintending the publication of his *History of Vermont*, and while here, preached in the Court house, and was a member of Dr. Pomeroy's family.

At the town meeting mentioned above, i. e., in the year 1809, it was voted that a committee of five be chosen for the purpose of fixing on a place for building a meeting house; and Daniel Farrand, Stephen Pearl, Moses Robinson and David Russell were elected that committee, who reported at an adjourned meeting held about 2 weeks afterwards, that they "had taken the subject into consideration, and agreed to recommend to the town a piece of ground lying on the south side of the new road called College street, leading from the front of the college to the Court House square, east of the road called Middle street (now Willard street), leading south from Pearl street to the turnpike road (now Main street), for said purpose." The report was accepted, and a

\* Hon. Charles Adams, since died, having departed this life Jan. 13, 1862.





committee of seven raised to make and receive proposals to draft a plan for a building to be erected immediately.

But on that beautiful hill-side, no church steeple yet points to heaven. The effort failed, and all we know from the town records of the how and the wherefore is just nothing. Only it is written that in about 3 weeks after the building committee was appointed, an adjourned meeting to hear the proceedings of the committee met, and immediately dissolved, and in about as many weeks more, that is, on the last Monday in May, 1809, assembled again, and immediately adjourned without day.

The explanation of the mystery is, in brief, that the slumbering lion of theology waked up, and the growls of religious controversy began to be heard. Hitherto the inhabitants of the town had acted together without any clashing of different opinions on matters of religious belief; but the dividing day had come.

A separation took place; but to tell you all the circumstances connected with it, as I learn them from the written statement of the dead, and from the lips of the living, who remember those days, would be to misappropriate the calm of this sacred day to a recital of the angers and strifes; the deceptions and the meannesses of sectarian controversy.

But to proceed, in January, 1810, articles of association, whereby a very large majority of the male inhabitants of the town formed themselves into a society by the name of the First Congregational society, in the town of Burlington, were adopted in public meeting; a call was given to Mr. Saml. Clark, who had been preaching in town for some time a few Sundays by invitation, to be their gospel minister.

Just 50 years ago, this month of April, on Thursday, the 19th day of the month, the people of Burlington, favorable to liberal sentiments in religion, were assembled in the Court house (a wooden structure afterwards burned down, but then occupying the same piece of ground on which now stands the more substantial edifice by that name), to induct into office the man they had chosen to be their christian teacher and guide, Mr. Saml. Clark, where, only 9 days before, the Calvinistic party of seceders had with eager haste ordained another minister; designing, it is said, in military phrase, to steal a march on the liberals in order to invest in their

man, Mr. Danl. Haskel, afterwards 3d president of the University of Vermont, the right of 320 acres of land which was granted by charter to the first settled minister. On this account very great excitement prevailed at the time, feeling was intense, the very children partook of the agitation, and held disputes; but the difficulty was at length satisfactorily adjusted by a vote of the town appraising the lots and dividing them into three parts, giving the same sum of \$1,000 to each of the ministers, and funding the other third, the income from which to be shared by the two societies equally.

The services on the occasion of Mr. Clark's ordination were of an able and interesting character, and were published. The Rev. Wm. Emerson, pastor of the First church in Boston, and father, I believe, of the distinguished Ralph Waldo Emerson, preached the sermon, the subject of which was *Posthumous Beneficence*, and the text the words of Peter in his 2d epistle, i, 5. "Moreover, I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance." The charge was given by the Rev. Sam'l Whiting of Rockingham, Vt., and the Rev. Thaddeus Mason Harris of Dorchester, Mass., extended the right hand of fellowship.

Mr. Clark's salary was \$550, and for 12 years, with little or no interruption, he served this society. He died on Wednesday, May 2, 1827, having five years previously resigned his pastoral office in consequence of an attack of pulmonary disease, which finally terminated his life. He was buried on Friday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, from his late residence, and on the succeeding Sunday Mr. Geo. G. Ingersoll, his successor in office, preached a funeral sermon, in which, at some length, he spoke of his life and character.

From a communication by the same to the *Northern Sentinel*, we extract:

"Mr. Clark was born in Brookline, Mass., in 1782, and graduated at Harvard college in 1805. . . . In respectful remembrance it may be truly said, as a kind and faithful husband and parent, his loss will be deeply felt; as a sincere and generous friend he will be long recollected; as a citizen he was ever prepared and willing to be useful. Mr. Clark possessed a fair understanding and a warm and feeling heart. He was distinguished by a cheerful temper and a disposition to look on life in its brightest light. . . . Unreserved in daily intercourse, of no one could it be more properly said, that his words were 'the index



of his mind.' He was independent in his judgments and fearless in his declarations, and, though unpretending in manner, he was firm in the support of what he felt to be right. These traits of character were not only exhibited in his private life but they entered into and distinctly marked his duties as a minister of the gospel, for his religious views were cheering and consolatory, and he was decided in asserting and defending them. His faith was enlightened and liberal, and his charity, that virtue which is higher than faith, was a truly christian charity, for he earnestly desired the happiness and salvation of all of his fellow-beings.

"In his last sickness he was more than patient, he was cheerful, he spoke of his departure freely and calmly; he had no fears of death, and when at last death came on him it came as a quiet sleep."

The house we occupy, our goodly temple, was built, as the chiseled stone in the front wall of the tower tells us, in the year 1816. Immediately after the ordination of two ministers in town, there being but one public room convenient for a place of worship, the question inevitably came up, which society shall have the use of the Court house? or what portion of time shall each one have it in turn?

Various efforts were made towards a peaceful and handy decision of the question, and failed, till finally the stronger party, and we think, the right party, that is the society which had the right on their side, took the matter in hand, and passed in a meeting the following preamble and resolutions:

"Whereas, *Every* pacific measure has been proposed by the society to bring the respective claims of the two societies to an equitable adjustment, which has been opposed and neglected by the Calvinistic society, therefore

"Resolved, That in future this society will assert their right to use the Court house upon all public religious occasions without any accountability to any of the members of the Calvinistic society.

"Resolved, That the above resolution is founded in right, legal, moral and religious, and that this society will support the same"—and they did.

In those days, I am told, men were very early at meeting, and came *prepared*. Not, I fear, in a very meek and quiet spirit, nor having on that armor which the apostle describes; but the times were trying and our fathers were in earnest.

At a meeting of the society, convened April

22, 1815, Mr. Ebenezer J. Englesby introduced the following resolution:

"Whereas, It is understood that a number of the First Congregational society have purchased five acre lot, No. 17, for the purpose of erecting a meeting house thereon for the use of this society, have generously subscribed a large sum for the purpose of building said meeting house, therefore

"Resolved, That this society agree that the said five acre lot, No. 17, shall be the place for setting a meeting house for said society, and that the subscribers for the same be requested to proceed and build said meeting house by subscription, in such manner as they shall judge most convenient for the accommodation of the society and under such regulations as they may agree upon among themselves."

Which resolution was unanimously adopted.

The house was built at the cost, including bell, clock and organ,\* of about \$23,000, and, with but little change in the interior, is the commodious, pleasant and chaste building we are assembled in to-day.

It was dedicated Thursday, Jan. 9, 1817, by appropriate solemnities. Introductory prayer was offered, and scripture read by the pastor of the society. A hymn prepared by Deacon Jacob Williams, a member of the society, was sung. Dedictory prayer was made by John Foster, D. D. of Brighton, Mass., and Rev. John Pierce. Afterward Dr. Pierce of Brookline, Mass. (under whom Mr. Clark early studied for the ministry), preached a sermon from Psalm xciii, 5—"Holiness becometh thy house O Lord forever."

The original dedicatory hymn (by Jacob Williams), was as follows:

Great God, we enter this thy house;

This long wished for day with joy we see,  
That we may pay our grateful vows,

And dedicate this house to thee.

Thy providential smiles, O Lord,

Have crowned our work with good success;

By thy Almighty name adored—

That name we'll never cease to bless.

Continue still thy presence here,

Make this the place of thine abode,

Whilst we, with filial love, draw near

To thee, our Father and our God.

\* One of the largest and finest organs in the country has of late been put into this church. "It contains 1700 pipes, being 300 more than the organ in St. Paul's, London. By touching one key in this instrument, 34 pipes can be sounded at one time, and 340 pipes by one grasp of chords."—*Ed.*





May thy pure precepts be our guide ;  
 All errors shunned with cautious care ;  
 No doctrines taught by human pride,  
 Can with thy holy word compare,  
 But that religion from above,  
 Taught by thy son, our sovereign Lord,  
 Replete with peace, and truth, and love,  
 Claims all our reverence and regard.

May charity and love appear  
 In all we say, in all we do,  
 Thus prove our faith in thee sincere  
 And not a vain, an empty show.

May generations far remote,  
 Within these walls thy praise proclaim,  
 By purity of life support  
 The honor of the christian name.

May this church, still owned by thee,  
 When Christ appears a second time,  
 From every spot or blemish free  
 Appear with lustre all divine.

For nearly two years previous to the resignation of Mr. Clark, whose failing health disabled him to perform the duties of the pulpit, it had been occupied by a young man born in Boston, July 4th, 1796, and graduated at Harvard college, 1815. The same, whose name was Geo. Goldthwait Ingersoll, was ordained the second minister of this society, on the 30th day of May, 1822. He has written of that day that the weather was fine, the house uncommonly full; the services of very high order; the ordaining counsel dined at Howard's. Pres't Haskel asked the blessing, Rev. Mr. Johnston of Williston returned thanks."

The ordaining prayer was made by Rev. Dr. Bancroft; sermon was preached by Rev. President Kirkland of the university at Cambridge, Mass., and Rev. Wm. Ware, Rev. Samuel Ripley, Rev. Converse Francis, Rev. Charles Brooks and Rev. Dr. Thayer performed the other parts; all which coming from such men must indeed have been of a "high order."

Of the faithful and efficient ministry of Dr. Ingersoll\* to this society, continued through 22 years of arduous labor, till his health broke down, it is not my purpose to speak at length.

The limits of this discourse will not allow; and some years hence it will be the more appropriate time for some one standing in this pulpit, to portray his genial disposition, his brilliant talents, his christian

\*Rev. G. G. Ingersoll, D. D. was born in Boston, July 4th, 1796; graduated at Harvard college, 1815; began to preach Sept. 20, 1820; settled at Burlington, May 30, 1822; resigned his charge, March 31, 1844; preached his farewell, June 2, 1844.

character, and his useful life not yet ended, but still prolonged and still devoted to the service of God, and human happiness.

Of only two things in his ministry may I allow myself to speak, and even then I can but allude to. I mean the institution of the Sunday school, which was established by him in this parish in May, 1828; and the Parish library, originally known as the Religious Book society, whose first meeting was called at his instance, and whose noble object he did every thing in his power to promote. Of no one's labors more than of his, is our present valuable collection of nearly 900 volumes of good and standard books, the fruit, and how wholesome fruit, how refreshing and invigorating to both mind and heart it is, the many who visit that library from week to week, know full well!

Of the Sunday school, Dr. Ingersoll thus spoke in his farewell sermon, which I may say in passing, no one can read without admiration for the earnestness and fidelity of the ministry it brought to a close.

"When I first came to you" (I quote his sermon), "there was no Sunday school attached to the society; indeed the present system of Sunday schools had but partially gone into operation in our land. For some time after my settlement, I felt inadequate to bear the burden which such an institution would impose. But becoming more and more convinced of the need of some such public religious instruction for the children of the society, I undertook the performance of the duty myself. For some years I was sole instructor of the Sunday school, and, though it was not large, the business of instructing them, came at the close of the afternoon service after the fatigues of the day; still I found in this matter my pleasure in my duty. Some of the happiest moments of my ministerial engagements were thus spent."

Referring to the Parish library, he says: "In the establishment and progress of this I have ever taken as deep and uninterrupted interest. It was one of my earliest movements for the increase of religious knowledge among churches, and the diffusion of correct views of our religious faith among others. . . . In order to make this institution productive of still greater good, I proposed to hold, in connection with it, monthly religious meetings for the edification of all who wished to attend. These meetings were held in the church, during the summer, in the afternoon, and during the winter, in the evening, at my house, the





exercises at such times being prayer, a written essay, and familiar religious discussions." "And," he says, finally: "if there be any one thing more than another in connection with which I would have my name remembered among you, it is the Parish library."

May I here propose to you, my brethren, a suggestion, made to me by another, that, by a vote in the next parish meeting, you inscribe on that monument of a good and faithful minister's service to you, the name of the "Ingersoll Library."

I make a single quotation more from the same sermon: "Of the 75 parishoners," he writes, "who first joined in the call given me to settle here, only 15 are now recorded on the list. . . . How many hands once reached out to me for friendly grasp, have long since mouldered to dust! How many voices which once spoke to me the cheering welcome, have long since been hushed in the repose of the grave! The fathers, Williams, Reed, Farrand, Curtis, Sawyer, Hollister, Rice, Russell, Pomeroy, I miss your venerable forms from the seats you once so constantly filled. The mothers in Israel whom I approached in filial reverence—you are no longer here. The friends whose matured life and powers gave a present stability to our pastoral connection, and a promise of a long continued support—I look in vain for many of you to-day."

The Fathers. I would, my hearers, that with a few words proper and fit for each I could call them up before you, for good and true men I am sure they were. Liberal christianity in Burlington need not be ashamed of its ancestors. But how can I speak of men who were carried to their graves before I was born? or while my infancy and youth were passing far from here? The very mention of their names, however, will bring them to the minds and hearts of some of you, and they will walk before you as in other days, or sit beside you here. Yes, I know not what tender recollections it will awaken.

Very briefly I can speak of them, and only as I know them from an examination of the church and parish records, and from the recollections of one\* who has kindly permitted me to read his MSS. sketch of the men who were his friends and companions when he was young.

Among the oldest inhabitants of Burlington who were members of this society, Ste-

\*Late Hon. Charles Adams.

phen Pearl and Phineas Loomis stand first. Younger men were Sam. Hitchcock, and Daniel Farrand, and Luther and Horace Loomis, sons of Phineas Hitchcock and Farrand, were among the most distinguished lawyers of Vermont, and took high rank among its cultivated citizens. Mr. Farrand was for some time judge of the supreme court, and the chief speaker in behalf of the liberal cause on all occasions. Of Horace Loomis, the venerable man of 85 years, who still retains the interest of his younger and more vigorous days in the society; of him, of our respect and our love for him another occasion must speak. Of Luther Loomis, all say he was a genuine and noble man. Strong in body, he was stronger in nature, intellect, and second to none in execution of purpose and energy of life.\*

Companion of these was Dr. John Pomeroy, a leading physician and surgeon in this part of the state for over 40 years. He was an ardent lover and promoter of knowledge and of every useful improvement, and was for many years a member of the corporation of the university in this place, and a professor in its medical department. Indeed he was an enthusiast in any good work, and was a unitarian of the most thorough kind and foremost among the friends of the cause.†

Deacon Jacob Williams, author of the dedicatory hymn, "sedate, thoughtful and profound" (says the MSS. from which I quote), he felt that life was a great service. When the hour of death came it found him ready to depart, and cheerful in the prospect of a higher life. Like "a granite column standing in some shady grove where the flowers fill the soul with delight, he gave solemnity and yet a pleasing dignity to all around him." In manners a gentleman of the old school, in acts a practical philanthropist, his

\*Mr. Loomis was born in Sheffield, Mass., in 1798. His father, Phineas Loomis came to Burlington when Luther was 7 years old. He lived 63 years, and was identified with all the public enterprises of his town—as director of the Burlington bank from the act of incorporation to the time of his death; as a prominent member of the Champlain Steam Navigation company, and as one of the 8 original purchasers of the property at Winooski falls (Colchester), owned by the Burlington Mill company, and had his practical good sense managed the operations of the company, it would have escaped the disasters which finally overwhelmed it. One year, 1816, he represented Burlington in the state legislature, his first and only connection with politics. He died June 22, 1844.

"*Ut insignis virtute ac meritis.*"

†Obituary, published at the time of his death, writer unknown: In this town, on the 10th inst. (Feb. 1844), Dr. John Pomeroy, aged nearly 79 years. Dr. Pomeroy was one of our oldest inhabitants, and one among the early settlers of the town. He was born in Middleboro, Mass., on the 9th April, 1764. His early advantages for an education were limited to the opportunities afforded by the common winter school, and occasional assistance of the





life was a demonstration of his faith, and his morning prayer was for strength to live devoted to the will of his Maker. He passed away almost at the hour when our house was dedicated.

And then there was Deacon David Russell, a soldier of the revolution, whose venerable form (he died in 1843 at the age of 86), had been long associated in this community with all civil gatherings, social meetings and religious services, and was met in your streets even to the last.\* He died at Governor's parish minister. When but a lad of 16 years of age, he enlisted and served three months as a soldier at West Point, in the latter part of the Revolution. He studied Physic with Dr. Bradish, in Cummington, Mass., and in 1787 established himself at Cambridge, in this state; was married in 1789, and in 1792 after a successful practice at Cambridge, perceiving the superior advantages offered by the location of this town, he removed here with his family, and occupied for some months a log cabin then standing partly in what is now called Pearl street. The first brick house erected in this town was built by him in 1796, on Water street, which continued to be his family residence to the time of his decease. For more than 5 years previous to his death he was the subject of a nervous disease, which during that whole period made him the object of the most constant and tender care as a patient. Dr. Pomeroy was the leading physician and surgeon in this part of the state, for over 40 years, and retired from practice some 10 years since, with the reputation of a devoted, enterprising and successful practitioner. His practice was characterized by directness, simplicity and originality, and to save his patient from every pang not unavoidable, was with him an object of deep solicitude. A history of his surgical cases particularly, and his mode of treating wounds, would, we are confident, suggest some important hints for the benefit of mankind. He was an ardent lover and promoter of knowledge, and of every useful improvement; was for many years a member of the corporation of the university in this place, and a professor in its medical department. He had long been an open professor of the christian religion, and entertained a strong and lively sense of the importance of the change of worlds. His sensibilities were more than ordinarily affected by the approach of that event. Never doubting the justice and mercy of God as revealed in his works and word, but believing that our state in another life, depended upon the fidelity with which we discharged our duties here, he often expressed his fears for his own deficiencies and unworthiness. Doubt and fear are, with him, now dissipated, and the great realities which he looked forward to with so much interest and solicitude, are his — and we humbly trust that his sympathies, which always made him alive to every thing which is good here, will in their now fuller exercise, render him happy in the other world.

\*The following reminiscences of his useful life are taken from an obituary notice published at the time of his death in the village paper, by whom written, I have been unable to ascertain: Mr. Russell after leaving the army of the Revolution, in which he had been early engaged, came to this state previous to its being admitted into the Union. In 1783, he engaged with and entered into the printing business at Bennington, with Anthony Haswell, Esq., under whose auspices during that year the *Vermont Gazette* (a paper still published by the descendants of Mr. Haswell) was established, strongly advocating the claims of Vermont previous to her admission into the Union. In 1784 the legislature of this state established five post offices, one at Bennington, one at Rutland, one at Brattleboro, one at Windsor, and one at Newbury. Mr. Haswell, the senior partner in the concern was appointed post master general, Mr. Russell discharging its duties. Upon the admission of Vermont into the Union in 1791, the post offices in this state became a part of the establishment under the control of the general government, and Mr. Russell was appointed post master at Bennington. He continued in that office until he was appointed collector of customs for the dis-

trict of Vermont, when in 1797 he removed to Burlington, and entered upon the duties of his office, and continued therein until superseded by Dr. Jabez Penniman. Mr. Russell was at an early day appointed agent for the erection of the first college building for the University of Vermont, and a description of this beautiful edifice may be found in the late edition of Thompson's *Gazetteer of Vermont*, many of the old inhabitants of Burlington can bear testimony to the untiring zeal and fidelity in its erection by Mr. Russell, amid many difficulties and pecuniary losses to himself. He afterwards for a long period officiated as a faithful civil magistrate, and for a number of years he was clerk of the supreme court for Chittenden county. Mr. Russell was a decided and sincere friend of religion; he early exerted himself in the establishment of its institutions in this town, and was not only a constant worshiper, but for some years officiated as deacon in the Unitarian church with which he was connected.

About 10 years before him, died Col. Nathan Rice in ripe old age, who came to Burlington in 1811, and from that time to his decease, in 1831, was actively connected with this society, and for 12 years served as one of the deacons of the church. He, too, was a patriot of the revolution, at first as aid to Gen. Lincoln, and finally in active service under Lafayette.\*

trict of Vermont, when in 1797 he removed to Burlington, and entered upon the duties of his office, and continued therein until superseded by Dr. Jabez Penniman. Mr. Russell was at an early day appointed agent for the erection of the first college building for the University of Vermont, and a description of this beautiful edifice may be found in the late edition of Thompson's *Gazetteer of Vermont*, many of the old inhabitants of Burlington can bear testimony to the untiring zeal and fidelity in its erection by Mr. Russell, amid many difficulties and pecuniary losses to himself. He afterwards for a long period officiated as a faithful civil magistrate, and for a number of years he was clerk of the supreme court for Chittenden county. Mr. Russell was a decided and sincere friend of religion; he early exerted himself in the establishment of its institutions in this town, and was not only a constant worshiper, but for some years officiated as deacon in the Unitarian church with which he was connected.

\*This obituary notice was written by George G. Ingersoll, D. D., his pastor, and then minister of the Unitarian church, and published in the village paper:

DIED—In this town, on Thursday morning last, at the residence of his son-in-law, Judge Foote, Col. Nathan Rice, in the 51st year of his age. Col. Rice was a native of Sturbridge, Mass., and a patriot of the Revolution. He was graduated at Harvard college, and soon after commenced the study of the law in the office of John Adams, afterwards president of the United States. But in consequence of the excited state of the country, then in the beginning of the revolution, he gave up his profession and entered the army, in which he continued throughout the war. At its termination he returned to private life, with the rank of major, and resided at Hingham, Mass., where for many years he represented the town in the state legislature, and took an active interest in all the useful business of the town. He lived there beloved and respected. In 1798, with the same ardent feeling, he again entered the service of his country, and as senior colonel, had the command of the troops stationed at Oxford, Mass. In 1811 he removed to this town, since which time he has been well known and highly respected as a man, citizen and a friend. Possessed of an ardent temperament, he ever took a lively interest, not only in the prosperity of the circle drawn nearest round him, but in the general welfare of the community. The temperance cause, and other similar moral movements, received his cordial approbation and support. He ever cherished a profound reverence for the institutions of that religion he for so many years professed, and his punctual attendance and earnestness in public worship, and the ordinances of the church with which he was connected, evinced his deep sense of the importance of Gospel truth. His life was a long one, but its good was enjoyed with generous feeling, and its duties performed with upright intention, while towards its close he continued cheerful through many months of debility, his faculties remaining unimpaired to the last. He died with thankfulness for the mercies of his past life, and a humble hope of acceptance with his God. Though taken in a full old age, his children will still feel his death a severe trial, whilst those who have known him as a neighbor and friend will long remember him with affection, and respect the good old man.

"But mourn not for the friend, who having run  
The bound of man's appointed years, at last  
Life's blessings all enjoyed, life's labors done,  
Serenely to his final rest has past."





Rich, district clerk, to support the school on the grand list; Robert Waugh and Nathaniel Pitkin, school com.; Aaron Elmer, collector. Voted, that no one shall have a right to take any child into his family to attend school, unless he take one for a year, and that the selectmen shall act in conjunction with the committee in examining the school teacher, and to raise \$34 to support schooling.

At town meeting, Mar. 25, 1801, Caleb Pitkin, mod., voted to divide the district; set up the old school-house at vendue, to be sold to the highest bidder; sold the house for 2½ bushels of wheat, on 6 months' credit, to Aaron Elmer; 12 squares of glass, to Solomon Gilman, for 1 bush. of wheat; 75 nails, to Nathaniel Dodge, for 1 peck of wheat; boards, to Robert Waugh, for 9s. 6d., to be paid in wheat; table, to Joshua Pitkin, for 2 bush. 2 qts. of wheat; chair, to Joshua Pitkin, for 3 pecks, 4 qts. of wheat. The selectmen organized the inhabitants on the river road into a school district, beginning at Hart Roberts' on the north, Capt. Skinner's at the south, Nathaniel Pitkin's on the west, and Samuel Wilson's and Joseph Wells' on the east. Stephen Rich, Samuel Paterson, Caleb Pitkin, were selectmen.

So the old school-house was sold, a little, square, log-building, covered with bark; a big stone chimney, with an opening above for the smoke to go out and the rain to come in, and the grand old forest for play-ground, and did it not ring with the merry shouts of childhood? They needed no gymnasium then. Were there not the trees to climb, the birds' nests and squirrels to hunt, and partridges and woodchucks to look after? The children did not sing in school in those days. They had to sit straight, keep their eyes on the book, and their toes on the crack. They hardly dared breathe in school-time, there was such an awe of ferule and rod. The children did not sing in school, but the bird's song they heard through the open window, and when the noon-time came, the children joined the chorus, and the old woods rang again.

It seems the inhabitants not included in

the river district, were all in one other district. Afterwards districts were divided and arranged, as the inhabitants increased, according to their needs. But it was not until about 1812, that a school-house was built on the river near Joshua Pitkin's. Schools were kept in a portion of a dwelling-house, and sometimes in Caleb Pitkin's old house. In the mill district, now the village, the first school-house was built in 1821. The first school in this district was taught by Miss Comfort Gage, in the summer of 1820, in Capt. Martin Pitkin's barn, on the place where the writer resides. There was a school a number of years in the Dwinell district, before the convenience of a school-house was enjoyed. Four winters this school was kept in Simeon Dwinell's kitchen. This to some housekeepers might have seemed an inconvenience, as the house was small, and Mrs. Dwinell had 8 children of her own. But she doubtless got along nicely, washing days and all. The children must be educated; in those days troops of little ones were not so much in the way.

In 1805, a committee was appointed by the town to act in concert with the selectmen in purchasing a piece of ground for the burial of the dead, and the grave-yard near J. H. Eaton's was bought of Nathaniel Dodge.

Mar. 1797, Thomas McLoud, of Montpelier, and Sally Dodge, of Marshfield, were united in marriage by Joseph Wing, Esq., of Montpelier, the first marriage in town. Joshua Pitkin, Esq., was the first justice of peace, and Dec. 10, 1801, he married Ebenezer Wells to Susannah Spencer, the first marriage by a citizen of the town.

Feb. 1, 1803, a town meeting was called to see if the town would form themselves into a Congregational society, and also to see if they would agree to settle a minister. The vote stood 17 in favor and 70 against.

Bears, wolves and deer were very numerous in the early days of Marshfield. The wolves made night hideous by their howlings, and it was no uncommon thing to kill a bear or deer. Joshua Pitkin, in his





journal, speaks of killing 8 deer at different times, and one bear story belonging to our region has in it sufficient of the tragic to warrant insertion here.

One season early in September the bears began to make depredations in the corn, on the Skinner farm, now Wm. Martin's. Solomon Gilman, one of the early settlers, who was a great sportsman, promised to watch for the bear, and put an end to his suppers of green corn; he took his stand at night in the field, waiting the arrival of the depredator. The bear came on, and was soon helping himself, when with true aim, the hunter fired. The bear gave one great spring, and came directly on, or over him. He felt his time had come. The blood was flowing! He caught the lacerated intestines in his hands, replaced them as he could in that moment of desperation, wrapped the long skirt of his overcoat about his body, holding it firmly with both hands; had just strength enough left to shout for help, and to run a short distance. Help soon came. They assisted him to a place of safety, and folding back his overcoat, a double handful of bruin's entrails fell to the ground! Mr. G. lived long to be the terror of the denizens of the forest, but it was years before he heard the last of being killed by a bear.

At another time, Mr. Gilman was pursuing a bear through some woods where Mr. Ira Stone was chopping. Seeing the bear rapidly approaching, Mr. Stone sprang upon a large rock. The bear came up. Mr. Stone attempted to strike him with his axe, but one blow of the bear's paw sent the axe to the ground. They now clinched. Mr. Stone attempted to grasp the bear's tongue, but instead, the bear crushed two of his fingers. They rolled to the ground, the bear uppermost. Just now Mr. Gilman came near, and taking aim, shot the bear through the head. The crushed fingers was all the serious injury Mr. Stone received.

The settlers made quite a business of selling ashes, and afterwards, a larger one of making salts for sale. The beautiful elms, of which there were many on the river banks and in other places, were cut

down, piled and burned for this purpose, and a great deal of other valuable timber. Salts sold well, so the day and the long night were often spent in boiling salts, and more than one woman has lent a hand at this work.

There are only two ponds which lie wholly in this town—Nigger Head, of circular form, and about half a mile in width, and Nob Hill ponds. Long pond lies partly in Marshfield and partly in Groton. Mud pond has within a few years dried up. Our county map shows other ponds in our eastern portion, but by actual survey it is found that neither of these are our side of the line. Our township is somewhat hilly, but in only one case are we entitled to the name of mountain.

#### NIGGER HEAD

mountain, in the north-easterly part of the town, is a steep precipice, 500 feet high, in one place 300 feet perpendicular. It is an imposing sight, so bold, precipitous and grand—nature enthroned in one of her wildest phases. On its dizzy heights we have a remarkably fine view of the surrounding regions, and of the bright waters of the beautiful pond below, and nowhere can one get a better view of the fearful precipice, than in a little boat on the waters at its base.

Winooski river passes through this town from north to south, more than half of the town lying on the east. It receives many tributaries in its course. Lye brook, the outlet of Pigeon pond in Harris' Gore, is a considerable stream, and falls into the river a little south of the center of the town.

A part of the south portion of Marshfield is more easily convened at Plainfield village, which really extends a little into our town than at our own village. As a consequence our people in that vicinity attend church at Plainfield, while a portion of the people in Eastern Cabot, on Molly's brook and vicinity, attend church at Marshfield.

On the east side of the river a large quantity of good timber remains uncut, and there are also on this side of the river very large quarries of granite, beautifully clear, and of superior quality, and should



the time come when a railroad shall pass up through this portion of our town, the value of these forests and quarries will be estimated very differently from what they are now. As far as farms are cultivated on this side of the river, they are pretty good.

About the year 1825, quite a settlement was made on this side, some  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of where the town-house now stands. So many families moved in, that a log school-house was built, and at one time there was a school of 30 scholars; but the land proving better for pasturage than tillage, after a few years the settlement was deserted. These large pastures are now owned by wealthy farmers.

The town is in every part well-watered. The east part is noted especially for its pure, soft, cold springs. There is also hardly a farm in town but what has one or more good sugar orchards, and the amount of sugar made here any year is large. Through the kindness of E. S. Pitkin, Esq., I have the following statistics of the manufacture of maple sugar here in the spring of 1868, which is above the average: Sugar orchards, 108; sugar made in 1868, 140,350 pounds, or more than 70 tons; 18 orchards made each 2,000 and upwards; 40 made less than 2,000 and more than 1,000 pounds.

#### WATER PRIVILEGES.

Molly's brook, from the easterly part of Cabot, unites with the Winooski soon after entering this town. On this brook, just above the junction, are Molly's Falls, which are worthy the notice of the traveler. They can be seen to advantage from the stage-road, a mile above the village. The water falls in the distance of 30 rods, 180 feet. Were we writing fiction, it would do, perhaps, to follow the figures of Thompson in his valuable "Gazeteer of Vermont," making these falls 500 feet; but we, who, in the clear mornings of summer can hear the roaring of the water, will have it just as it is, 180 feet. There is an amount of water-power here not often equalled. It would be difficult to estimate how much machinery might be kept in motion by the water which is precipitated over these

falls. Then, on the river below, are a number of excellent mill-sites, and in addition to all these, Nigger Head brook, from where it leaves Nigger Head pond to its entrance into the Winooski, has a succession of falls, making good locations for mills; all the better, as the stream is never materially affected by drought.

Among our early settlers a good deal of attention was paid to orcharding. On the hill farms there are good orchards and fine fruit, both grafted and native. On the river, apple-trees have never done as well.

Aug. 22, 1811, there was a very great rise of water, and Joshua Pitkin lost grass sufficient for 15 tons of hay, by the overflowing of his meadows, as his journal tells. In Sept. 1828, there was a great flood, and Stephen Pitkin, Jr.'s. clover mill, a mile above the village, was carried off; also many bridges. July 27, 1830, a great rise of water carried off nearly all the bridges on the river, and greatly injured the uncut grass on the meadows, and Aug. 1, 1809, there was a great hail-storm, injuring gardens and corn very much. The evening of July 5, 1841, there was a terrific hail-storm through a portion of the town. Vegetation was much injured, and very much glass broken. Aug. 20, 1869, there was a very sudden rise of water, buildings were injured, some small ones carried off, and bridges and other property destroyed.

A great gale was experienced here May 13, 1866. The wind was accompanied with rain, and 4 barns and some smaller buildings were blown down. Mr. Amos Dwinell was in his son's barn at the time, and was buried in its ruins, but extricated without much injury. A number of cows were in two of the demolished barns, but only a very few were seriously injured.

In the spring of 1807, snow was 4½ feet deep April 4, and when Joshua Pitkin began to tap his sugar-place, Apr. 15, it was 3 feet deep. May 15, 1834, there was a great snow-storm, more than 2 feet deep. In the winter of 1863 and '4, snow was very deep, fences covered for months.

We have also had our portion of fires. A barn was burned Oct. 1806, Jeremiah's





Carleton's blacksmith shop in 1827; after, an old house of Caleb Pitkin's, the dwelling house of Nathan Smith; the dwelling-house of Bemis Pike, Feb. 1835; new house of Hiram Goodwin, May, 1840; the starch-factory and clover-mill of Stephen Pitkin the night of Dec. 10, 1853, large shoe-shop of Henry Goodwin, May, 1860; house belonging to G. O. Davis, occupied by G. W. Nouns, who was severely burned, and the family just escaped with their lives. Mar. 1869, the saw-mill and shop, and all the tools of Calvin York.

#### CASUALTIES.

Betsey Sweetland and another young lady were riding on horseback May 7, 1817, below the village, when she was killed by the fall of a tree. She lived only a few hours.

Mr. Jonathan Davis, an aged man, was burned to death by falling into the fire, probably in a fit, and Jonathan Davis, Jr., had a little son drowned in a water-holder at the door.

George Pitkin, while drawing wood alone, fell before the runner of the sled, and was crushed to death, Feb. 20, 1845.

Martin Bemis, son of Abijah Bemis, came to his death by slipping in the road, and a sled passing over him.

Mrs. Linton was accidentally shot, by a gun carelessly handled by a boy.

Mrs. Tubbs, an old lady, accidentally took some oil of cedar, and lived but a short time.

Mr. Graves had a little daughter scalded, so as to cause death. A child of Nathaniel Lamberton was scalded, so as to cause its death in a short time. Mrs. Benoni Haskins was burned, so as to cause death in a few hours. A little child of Francis Loveland was also burned to death some years since, and a child of Spencer Lawrence scalded, so as to cause its death.

A number of years ago, Mr. Asa Willis had a very remarkable escape from sudden death, while at work on a ledge of rocks, near where Daniel Loveland resides. There had been an unsuccessful attempt made to split open a granite rock 12 feet square, the lower edge of which lay on a large rock 15 feet high. The top of the lower rock

was slanting like the roof of a house. While attempting to open the crevice already commenced in the upper rock, sufficient to insert a blast of powder, the rock split in two nearly in the middle, Mr. Willis falling between the parts, and he and they sliding from the large rock to the ground, 27 feet. The two pieces, when they reached the ground, stood in such a way that the upper edges leaned against each other, and the lower edges stood apart so as to leave a wedge-shaped cavity large enough to admit his body, and there he lay. No one was with him but Mr. Joshua Smith. On ascertaining that he was alive, Mr. Smith dug away the earth, and succeeded in extricating him from his perilous situation. Neither he, nor the physician, who was immediately called, thought him much injured, and he lived to do a good deal of hard work, and yet it is thought he never entirely recovered from the effects of the shock.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

The log houses of the pioneers soon gave way to better dwellings. At the present time nearly all the houses in town are of modern style and finish, but it is the barns that ought particularly to be mentioned. Many of them are large, beautifully finished and painted, and not surpassed by any in the vicinity.

#### THE TOWN CLERKS

have been, Stephen Rich 7 years, George Rich 7 years, Robert Cristy 9 years, Martin Bullock 16 years, Jacob Putnam 19 years, Jonathan Goodwin 2 years, Samuel D. Hollister 2 years, and Andrew English 24 years, from 1849 to his death in 1873; Geo. W. English 2 years, and Edgar L. Smith, elected in 1875, now in office.

#### REPRESENTATIVES.

The town was first represented in the Legislature in 1804, by Stephen Pitkin. He held this office in all 13 years, then by George Rich 3 years, Wm. Martin 12 years, Josiah Hollister 2 years, Alonzo Foster 2 years, Spencer Lawrence 2 years, Welcome Cole 2 years, Horace Hollister 3 years, Ira Smith 2 years, Stephen R. Hollister 2 years, E. D. Putnam 2 years, Hi-





ram Potter 2 years, Asa Spencer 2 years, George A. Gilman 2 years, Ingals Carleton 2 years, Samuel D. Hollister 2 years, Andrew English 2 years, Bowman Martin 2 years, C. W. H. Dwinell 2 years, Wm. Martin, Jr., 2 years, and Preston Haskins 2 years. George Wooster, 1869-70; Moody Bemis, 1872; George Putnam, 1874; Levi W. Pitkin, 1876; Marshal D. Perkins, 1878; Mark Mears, 1880.

TOWN TREASURER.—George O. Davis, elected 1870.

#### SELECTMEN FROM 1876.

Eli G. Pitkin, 1876-77; H. P. Martin, 1876-78; J. H. Eaton, 1876; Willis Lane, 1876; Marcus R. Bliss, 1877-78-79; H. H. Hollister, 1879-80; Chester Sawyer, 1880; Levi W. Pitkin, Orin H. Smith, Daniel Holcomb, 1881.

#### TAVERNS.

Joshua Pitkin, Esq., raised the first tavern-sign Oct. 1805. He continued to keep a public house many years. The second tavern was opened by Charles Cate, where Erastus Eddy now lives. Joshua Smith moved into town from Ashford, Ct., in Dec. 1811, bought out Mr. Cate, and commenced keeping tavern, which he continued 17 years. He was a kind neighbor, accommodating to all, and travelers who called on him would never forget the exceeding drollery of his jokes. He died at the age of 84. His wife, one of our best women, still lives (1869) aged 87.

Capt. James English opened a tavern about the year 1811, where Obed Lamber-ton now resides, and kept a public house a number of years. He was a wheelwright and a highly respected citizen; removed to what is now the village; died in 1825, and was buried with Masonic honors.

Capt. Jacob Putnam bought out Capt. English in 1820, and kept a public house some years, and his son, A. F. Putnam, kept a number of years after at the old stand, and later at the village.

Dudley Pitkin commenced keeping a tavern at the old place occupied by his father, about the year 1824, and for a few years continued the business.

Daniel Wilson moved from Alstead, N.

H., in 1821, and settled in the village. He built and run the first carding-machine in town. He also bought the place where the hotel now stands, and built there a one-story plank house. The place soon passed into other hands, and in 1826, was bought by Eli Wheelock, who put on another story, and made other additions to the house, and opened it as a hotel the same year. It has been used for a public house till the present time (1869), but so many additions and alterations have been made, that it would now be rather a difficult matter to find the original building. The property soon passed into other hands, was purchased by Horace Bliss, who remained in the tavern a number of years; then sold to Lyman Clark, who afterwards sold to Jabez L. Carpenter, and it has had a number of owners since. A. F. Putnam was proprietor 6 years, and sold to P. Stevens. The present occupant (1869) is P. Lee.

#### STORES.

The first store in town was opened as early as 1818, by Alfred Pitkin, son of Joshua Pitkin, Esq., in a one-story house just opposite his father's, and just where Wm. Haskins' house stands. After a few years Mr. Pitkin removed to Plainfield, and later to Montpelier. The first store in the village was kept by a Mr. Kimball. He stayed here only a short time.

Enoch D. Putnam opened a store here, Apr. 5, 1840, and continued to trade here till March, 1855, when he sold out and went to Cabot, and has recently removed to Montpelier. George Wooster went into partnership with Mr. Putnam in Sept. 1848. In May, 1858, G. & F. Wooster commenced trade in their starch-factory, but have since built a large store, and are doing a good business.

A. F. Putnam commenced trade in 1866, and is also doing a good business. Levi Bemis and some others have also been in the mercantile business in our village, and after a time have left for other places. Geo. A. Putnam is our present merchant (1881), and Mrs. Adams keeps a ladies store. A. F. Putnam, postmaster.



## PHYSICIANS.

Dr. Bates came here in 1826. He located at Eli Wheelock's hotel; remained but a few months. In 1827, Dr. Hersey came here to practice. He boarded at Judge Pitkin's; remained about a year. About 1828, Dr. Daniel Corliss settled in our village, stayed a year and removed to Montpelier, (now East Montpelier, where he died.)

Dr. Asa Phelps removed from Berlin to this place in 1831, and still lives here. For many years he was the only resident physician. He has known as well as any other man, what it was to travel over our hills on a dark night, with the thermometer below zero, while the winds were all abroad—years ago. At that time, we had many more poor people in town, than now. On such nights after doing for the sick, if he could have lodging on the floor, with his feet towards the fire, he would put up till daylight. He was never known after such visits to complain of his fare, indeed sometimes, he had no fare to complain of. He has had a large practice—often without pay, never objecting to have counsel, and if superseded by others, “he kept the even tenor of his way,” never speaking against the practice of other physicians; thus has secured universal respect.

Dr. Ezra Paine moved here in 1842, and remained here some 2 years.

Dr. George Town removed here from Montpelier in 1852, but after a few years, sold out and returned to Montpelier, but removed here again, and has a good practice.

Dr. J. Q. A. Packer, homœopathist, removed from Peacham here in 1865. He is doing a good business.

## LONGEVITY.

A few persons here have attained to the age of 90 years. Dea. Spencer died at 90; Mrs. Capron over 90; Mrs. Cree, 94; Mrs. Austin, 94.

Mr. Joel Parker and wife resided in this place a year or two. Some few years since, Mrs. Parker had attained to the great age of 97, and on her birth-day sung two hymns to a neighbor who called upon her.

Mr. P. was 10 years younger. They have both recently died in Northfield, she in her 100th year.

*Aged persons who have died in town within 3 or 4 years.*—Daniel Young, 91, and his wife Lydia, 85; Sylvester Loveland, 88, and his wife, 84; Mary Bemis, 84; Samuel G. Bent, 81; Ira Smith, 80; Abijah Bemis, 86; Willard Benton, 83.

*Aged persons now living (1881).*—Dr. Asa Phelps, 85; Lucy Bemis, 86; Sally Dwinell, 86; Mary York.

## MILLS.

The first saw-mill in town was built by Stephen Pitkin, afterwards Judge Pitkin, in 1802, on Lye brook. In 1812, he built the first saw-mill at what is now the village, and a grist-mill in 1818, which was used many years. The stone and brick grist-mill, now owned by Harrison F. Ketchum, was built in 1831, by Gen. Parley Davis and Truman Pitkin. About the year 1823, Simeon Gage built clothing-works at the south part of the village, but they were used only a few years.

## LIBRARY.

There has been for 20 years, in this place, a circulating library, of historical works, travels, etc.

## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

BY MRS. DEA. A. BOYLES.

The first Congregational church in Marshfield was organized Dec. 24, 1800. By request of a number of persons in town, to be embodied into a visible church of Christ, Rev. Mr. Hobart and two brethren, Mr. Timothy Hatch and Peterson Gifford of Berlin, came and organized a church of 13 members. Selah Wells was the first deacon, and afterwards Gideon Spencer. For a number of years they had additions, both by professions and letters, and were supplied with preaching a portion of the time by ministers from the neighboring towns. Rev. Mr. Hobart of Berlin, Rev. Mr. Lyman of Brookfield, Rev. Mr. Wright of Montpelier, Rev. Mr. Worcester of Peacham, and also a Mr. Washburn and Mr. Bliss, were among those who occasionally ministered to them. About the year 1817, Rev. Levi Parsons,





afterwards missionary to Palestine, was here, and preached a number of times. But they never enjoyed the blessing of a settled minister. Thus they continued till Dec. 8, 1823, when with the hope that they should enjoy better privileges, those members residing at the south part of the town, united with the church in Plainfield. The rest of the members, and a number of other persons who wished to unite with a Congregational church, thought best to form a church at the north part of the town, in the vicinity of the village, and by request, Rev. Mr. French of Barre, and Rev. Mr. Heard of Plainfield, came and organized a church, which still remains. Brothers Andrew Currier and Alexander Boyles, were chosen deacons. It has been supplied with preaching a part of the time. Among those who have labored here are Rev. Messrs. Kinney, Baxter, Herrick, Torrey, Waterman, Samuel Marsh, and Lane. Rev. Joseph Marsh labored here nearly 2 years. Through the summer of 1868, Rev. Mr. Winch, of Plainfield, preached at 5 o'clock every other Sabbath. There have been many removals and the present number of church members is small.

*Record from 1869 to Aug. 3, 1871, by Rev. N. F. Cobleigh, pastor, then.*—For several years there had been but little Congregational preaching in Marshfield, when in the spring of 1870, Rev. J. T. Graves preached half of the time for 6 weeks. Soon after, Rev. N. F. Cobleigh was engaged to preach half of the time for 1 year. The church had no church property, but in the spring of 1871, a new church was begun, a Sabbath school organized, and a library obtained. The church will be dedicated Aug. 16, 1871. The membership has more than doubled during the past year. Preaching services are now held every Sabbath. Rev. N. F. Cobleigh is to be settled as pastor Aug. 16th inst.

*Record from Aug. 1877, to 1879, from Rev. Geo. E. Forbes.*—From this time to the spring of 1877, Rev. Mr. Cobleigh was its pastor, and through his faithful efforts its membership was very largely in-

creased. Of the 57 who composed the church when Mr. Cobleigh resigned, only 9 were members in 1870. Aug. 16, the church was dedicated and the pastor installed. After Mr. Cobleigh's resignation in 1877, Rev. John Stone, of Berlin, supplied until early in 1878, when Rev. Paul Henry Pitkin, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was called to be its pastor. He was installed March 14; is its present pastor (1879.) Alexander Boyles, elected deacon in Aug. 1827, held office till his death, Nov. 27, 1876. The other deacons have been Andrew Currier, Silas Carleton, Benjamin Boyles and Mervin Roberts.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

BY MISS A. BULLOCK.

About the year 1815, Elder John Capron commenced preaching in this town, and soon after removed his family here from Danville. There was a revival of religion, and a church was organized about this time. They believed the Scriptures, together with the spirit of God, a sufficient rule of faith and practice. They were blessed with more or less prosperity till 1825, when some of them considered some articles setting forth their faith and covenant, as necessary and proper for a Christian church. This caused a division, but finally there was a reorganization under the pastoral care of Elder Capron, Dec. 15, 1836, the two blending together again. Between this time and March 5, 1844, 44 persons united with this church, a part living in Calais, and a part in Marshfield. Among this number there were many of whom we believed "their record is on high." Elder Capron had but little educational advantages, was of warm and energetic temperament, and many remember him justly, as a friend and brother in adversity. He moved from this town some time after the death of his excellent wife, who was kind to all and ever had a word for the afflicted. She died June 14, 1848, and was buried in our soil, and her memory still clings to our hearts. Elder Capron being the first settled minister in town, was entitled to, and received the town's minister lot of land. He removed to





Stowe. [See history of Morristown. Ed.] He was married a second time, and died some years since.

About the year 1839, there was another church of the Christian denomination organized in the North-west part of the town, under the direction of Elder Jared L. Green. This church was subjected to very hard and severe trials. Many of its members sleep in the dust, some are scattered to other parts, while others are living and striving for the better land.

#### ADVENT CHURCH.

Feb. 6, 1867, another church was organized here of 6 members, believing in the advent of Christ near at hand, under the pastoral care of Rev. J. A. Cleaveland.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH.

From the early settlement of the town there have been residents here who have maintained the views of the Baptist church. More than 30 years ago a church of this denomination was organized, consisting of members in Barre, Plainfield and Marshfield. The larger number resided in Barre and Plainfield, and this church will probably be mentioned in the history of one of those towns. [Barre has left it, we think, to Plainfield.—Ed.]

#### UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY.

BY REV. A. SCOTT.

Universalism was introduced into this town by Daniel Bemis, a Revolutionary soldier, who moved here from Conn. in 1809. Soon after Ebenezer Dodge, Jr., and Robert Spencer became associated with Mr. B. in religious faith. The first preacher of this faith here was Rev. Wm. Farewell, in 1818. From this time there was occasional Universalist preaching here till 1854, by Revs. L. H. Tabor, Benjamin Page, Lester Warren, and it may be some others.

In 1854, Daniel Bemis, Junior, Edwin Pitkin, Jonathan Goodwin, Abijah Hall and others united and secured the services of Rev. Wm. Sias for one-fourth of the Sabbaths for this and the next year. During 1855, the friends organized, under the name of "The Universalist Society of Liberal Christians in Marshfield." The

society for the year 1856 and '7, enjoyed the labors of Rev. Eli Ballou for one-fourth the Sabbaths.

In 1827, an association was formed called "The Union meeting-house society," for building and keeping in repair a church they erected in the village in the north part of the town; the only church edifice in town till 1859. [In 1831, when the first list of shares prepared apportioning the time to the several denominations, the Universalists were represented by four shares, owned by Sam'l. Ainsworth, Daniel Bemis, Jr., and Cyrus Smith.] In 1857, this association repaired and modernized the church, making it neat and pleasant, both external and internal. Some of the other societies, desiring more room at this time, relinquished their interest in the church. The property being sold to pay the assessment upon it, it fell into different hands, and at the present writing, 1869, three-fourths of the occupancy is given to the Universalist society. This change in the occupancy of the house gave a new impetus to the cause in the town. This society has since sustained public worship one-half of the Sabbaths, excepting 1866 and '7, during which they sustained it every Sabbath. These years were supplied as follows: 1858 and '9, by Rev. Eli Ballou; 1860, Rev. M. B. Newell; 1861, '2 and '3, by Rev. E. Ballou; 1864, by Rev. Olympia Brown; 1865, by Rev. L. Warren; 1866, '7 and '8, by Rev. A. Scott. Revs. Newell, Brown and Scott lived in the town during their ministrations. The society was united, and at the present time, 1869, is in as good, if not better, condition than at any former period, having raised more money for the support of worship one-half of the Sabbaths, than it had ever before done. Rev. L. Warren is to labor with it from May 1, 1869. Connected with the society and congregation are some 40 families, beside many single individuals of other families. There is also a small Sabbath-school, for the use of which there is a reading library of 150 vols. The church property is worth from \$3,000 to \$3,500,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of which is given to the occupancy of the society.



*From paper of Rev. Geo. E. Forbes in 1879—Universalist record continued*—In 1869, Rev. Lester Warren was engaged to preach one-half of the time till the spring of 1873. In July of this year, Rev. Geo. E. Forbes was settled over the society. For 2 years the Plainfield society united with this for his support. The remainder of the time he has preached for this society exclusively, and is its present pastor.

The Union Sabbath-school, composed of scholars from the different denominations occupying the church, was continued until 1871. Since that time the Sabbath-school here has been connected with this society; present number, about 90, officers and pupils. A. H. Davis was its superintendent in 1871 to '75, when he was succeeded by C. H. Newton. Under the ministry of Rev. L. Warren in 1871, a church was organized, which at present numbers 43 members. John E. Eddy and Abial H. Davis were elected deacons, and still hold the office. Ira H. Edson was the first church clerk, succeeded by D. R. Loveland and C. H. Newton, present clerk.

#### METHODIST CHURCH IN MARSHFIELD.

In May, 1826, Stephen Pitkin, Jr., married the writer, a daughter of Gen. Parley Davis, of Montpelier. A few months before she had been baptized by Rev. Wilbur Fisk, and united with the M. E. church on probation. Previous to their marriage Mr. Pitkin had also experienced religion. In Jan. 1827, there being no Methodists in Marshfield at that time, they both united with the Methodist church in Cabot; he as a probationer, being baptized by Rev. A. D. Sargeant, of the N. E. Conference, and she, by letter, in full connection. In 1827, the union meeting-house was built at Marshfield, and a committee appointed to divide the time for occupying the house between the different denominations owning it. A few Sabbaths were set to the Methodists, though Mr. Pitkin was the only Methodist pew-holder. Rev. N. W. Aspinwall, preacher in charge at Cabot, appointed and attended meetings here on these Sabbaths alternately with his col-

league, Rev. Elisha J. Scott. In Feb. 1828, the first quarterly meeting was held, weather stormy. The meeting commenced Saturday, P. M. Several ministers and one minister's wife were in attendance, and all were entertained at our own house—a small frame-house, never encumbered with clapboards.

The next year Sophronia and Sally Cate were baptized by Rev. Hershal Foster—the former now Mrs. Guernsey, of Montpelier. These two, with Mr. Pitkin and myself, and a Mrs. Whittle, constituted the first Methodist class in Marshfield, organized in the autumn of 1829, Mr. Pitkin class-leader and steward. What seasons of interest were the class-meetings and prayer-meetings of those days! The next to join were Samuel G. Bent and wife. Our numbers increased very gradually; at most, we occupied the church only  $\frac{1}{4}$  the Sabbaths. Rev. Solomon Sias, Rev. Stephen H. Cutler, Rev. E. J. Scott, and others, spoke to us the words of life. About 1834, the first wife of Andrew English, Esq., proposed to the writer, we should get the children of the neighborhood together for a Sabbath-school. As we had preaching at the church so little, we met at our homes alternately, at 5 o'clock. This we did many months, till we had a good-sized school, when it was proposed to take our Sabbath-school to the church, where it was duly organized, Jeremiah Carleton, Esq., first superintendent. A library was procured, and the school prospered. It was strictly a union Sabbath-school. The desk was supplied by ministers of different denominations, and our Sabbath-school went on. For a number of years the Methodists were supplied with preaching  $\frac{1}{4}$  the time, by preachers who lived in Cabot. After that, we were united with Woodbury and Calais, and supplied in that way. A few united with the little band from year to year, but deaths and removals kept our number small. Some of these death-bed scenes were, however, remarkably happy. Especially was this the case in the death of Loammi Sprague.

The first preacher sent here by Conference was Rev. David Packer, who died a





few years since in Chelsea, Mass. He resided on East Hill, in Calais.

At this time preachers received but a very small salary, and the members were often scattering and poor. After being in Calais a few weeks, Mr. and Mrs. Packer one morning ate their last food. Almost an entire stranger, Mr. Packer did not feel that he could beg. After uniting in family prayer, he retired to an old barn on the place, while she sought her closet, and each alone committed their case to the father of the stranger and the poor.

A mile away from them lived a young farmer, not a professor of religion. As he started after breakfast for the hay-field with his hired help, something seemed to impel him to stop. He must go back to the house and carry some provisions to the new minister. It was of no use to say, "I'm not acquainted with them, I know nothing of their needs," he must take them some food. He told the men they might go to mowing, he must go back. He went back, told his wife his feelings, and they together put up meat, potatoes, flour, butter and sugar, and other things, a fair wagon load, and *he* took it over, and found how blessed it was to give, and *they*, how safe to trust in God.

Slowly did the little church increase, never having preaching more than one-fourth of the time for many years.

In 1851, the Congregationalists and Methodists agreed to unite and support preaching. First for 2 years they would have Congregational preaching, and then Methodist for the next 2. Rev. Mr. Marsh, Congregational, was our first minister, and at the close of the two years Rev. Lewis P. Cushman was appointed by Conference, and spent 2 years with us. In those years a number were added to the church. Mr. Cushman is now a missionary in Texas; his little daughter, Clara, so well remembered by us, started last October as a missionary to China.

Before the close of Mr. Cushman's first year Mr. Pitkin died, and as he had been very influential in procuring and sustaining preaching, and there was no one to then take his place, the effort was now aban-

doned, and for a number of years we had no stated preaching. At length, in 1859, a few concluded to make one more effort, and Rev. Joshua Gill was stationed with us. The Union church had passed mostly into the hands of the Universalists, and we had no preaching place. We needed a church, and one was put up and covered in '59, and finished in 1860. The house was the right size, well furnished. Our next minister was Rev. Geo. H. Bickford, an excellent preacher, and one of the best of men. He died some years later at Barton. His last words, his hand upon his breast, closing his eyes, that grand old doxology, the *gloria*, "Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost." Rev. C. S. Buswell came next 2 years. Rev. James Robinson was stationed here in 1865, Rev. Joseph Hamilton in 1867; both years we had some additions. In 1869, Rev. James Spinney was appointed here. No. of vols. in S. S. library, 450.

In 1871, Rev. J. Hamilton was with us again, and stayed one year. In 1872, Conference made Rev. C. P. Flanders our pastor, succeeded in 1874, by Rev. C. A. Smith, who was with us 3 years, followed by Rev. G. H. Hastings in 1877, in 1879 by Rev. O. A. Farley, and in 1881 by Rev. C. H. Farnsworth, our present pastor. Our members have gradually increased; our present number is 73.

In the spring of 1870, we bought of Bemis Pike a good house and garden for a parsonage; cost, \$1,800.

Feb. 3, 1878, our church was burned. The society had just put down a new carpet, and a new organ and new lamps had been purchased, which, together with our large Sabbath-school library, was all consumed, and no insurance. What a loss for us! But after mature deliberation we decided to rebuild. The Church Extension Society gave us \$200, Rev. A. L. Cooper \$50, and a few other friends smaller sums. January 16, 1879, our new church was dedicated, sermon by Rev. A. L. Cooper. The church is built in the Norman Gothic style of architecture, nicely finished and furnished throughout, warmed from the vestry beneath, and free from debt.





Since we have had a church of our own, our Sabbath-school has been prosperous, and never more so than at the present time. It is large, numbering over 80. The present superintendent is J. B. Pike.

STEPHEN PITKIN,

whose history is so interwoven with early Methodism in Marshfield, was very unassuming in his manners, and very strong in his temperance and anti-slavery principles. He belonged to the old Liberty party when in this town; their caucuses were opened with prayer. He had a great aversion to pretension. He once lent his sleigh and harness to a man calling himself John Cotton, to go to Barnet, to be gone three days. Cotton was quite a stranger, having been in our place but 6 weeks, during which he had boarded with my husband's brother, working for him a part of the time, and the rest of the time selling clocks he had purchased of a Mr. Bradford, in Barre. Four days went by. On inquiry, Mr. Pitkin found that the clocks had been purchased on trust, and all sold for watches or money; that he owed \$60 toward his horse, and that he had borrowed of the brother with whom he boarded, horse-blanket, whip and mittens. It seemed sure he was a rogue. What could be done? Pursuit was useless after such a lapse of time. Mr. P. felt his loss severely; he had little property then, and what he had, was the product of hard labor; but he always made his business a subject of prayer. About 3 weeks passed away. One evening, having been out some time, he came in, and with his characteristic calmness, said, "H—, I shall not worry any more about my sleigh and harness; I think I shall get them again." "Why do you think so?" said I. His answer was, "I have been praying God to arrest Cotton's conscience, so that he will be obliged to leave them where I can get them, and I believe he will do it," and from this time, Wednesday evening, he seemed at rest on the subject. The next Tuesday morning, as he stepped into the post-office, a letter was handed him from Littleton, N. H., written by the keeper of a public house there:

*Mr. Pitkin—Sir:—*Mr. John Cotton has left your sleigh and harness here, and you can have them by calling for them.

Yours, &c., JOHN NEWTON.

He started for Littleton the same day, some 40 miles, found the sleigh and harness safe, with no encumbrance. The landlord said the Wednesday night previous, at 12 o'clock, a man calling himself John Cotton came to his house, calling for horse-baiting and supper. He would not stay till morning, but wished to leave the sleigh and harness for Mr. Pitkin, of Marshfield, Vt. He also requested the landlord to write to Mr. Pitkin, and said he could not write, and that he took them for Mr. Pitkin on a poor debt, and started off at 2 o'clock at night, on horseback, with an old pair of saddle-bags and a horse-blanket on a saddle with one stirrup, and no crupper, on one of the coldest nights of that winter. None of the other men to whom he was indebted received anything from him, or ever heard from him after.

[This brief sketch of this so worthy man cannot be better completed than by the following lines we have in our possession, which were written by Mrs. Pitkin after his death:]

"I have loved thee on Earth,  
May I meet thee in Heaven!"

Thrice, since they laid him with the dead,  
Have Autumn's golden sheaves been laden,  
Thrice have the spring-birds come and flown,  
And thrice the flowrets bloomed and faded.

Yet, yet the far-off birds returning,  
The harvest sunset gilded o'er,  
The flowrets springing, blooming, fading,  
But whisper, "he will come no more."

That hymn of praise, that voice in prayer,  
On memory's zephyrs back to me,  
Thrilling my inmost soul, they come  
Like midnight music on the sea.

In these dear haunts, beside this hearth,  
There is for me no answering tone.  
We knelt together by her grave,  
I weep and pray by theirs alone!

Oh, "pure in heart," in purpose firm,  
To me be thy meek mantle given;  
One faith, one hope was ours on earth,  
God grant us one bless'd home in Heaven.

In the winter of 1866, a lodge of Good Templars was organized here. Good has been accomplished, and it is hoped much more may yet be done. The present number of members is 101.



## DEA. GIDEON SPENCER

Came first to Marshfield from East Hartford, Conn., in company with Caleb and Martin Pitkin in the spring of 1792. That summer and the next they worked clearing land, and preparing for the coming of their families, returning for them in the fall. February, 1794, Mr. Spencer, Caleb Pitkin and Aaron Elmer removed their families to this wilderness, and commenced the settlement of Marshfield. From Montpelier they came with hand-sleds without roads over snow 4 feet deep. Daniel, oldest child of the Spencer family, was 4 years old. This family had the first daughter, born in town, and their son, Horace, was born the day the town was organized. Their location was a mile from either of the other settlers. So neighborly were the bears, Mr. Spencer found it necessary to take his gun when going after his cow, which had the whole forest for pasture.

He was chosen deacon of the Congregational church, soon after its organization; was active in sustaining meeting, and attained the great age of 90 years. His wife, a daughter of Capt. Isaac Marsh, a woman of energetic and social habits, died at the age of 86.

## CALEB PITKIN

married Hannah, daughter of Capt. Isaac Marsh, and came first to Marshfield as a surveyor. He was rather retiring in his manners, but had a vein of pleasantry which made him agreeable company, and he had a good education for the times. He was a good reader, and often when no minister was present, read the Sunday sermon. His trade was a mason, and the original stone-chimneys of the first dwellings were laid by him. His wife was social, and a worker. He removed to Peacham a few years before his death, Apr. 1813, at the age of 40. His widow returned to Marshfield, and lived some years after the decease of her husband. The oldest son, James, still lives on the old place. One son, a physician, has deceased, and a daughter lives in Burlington.

## JOSHUA PITKIN, ESQ.,

born in East Hartford, Conn., arrived with his wife and three children in Marshfield on the 1st of Mar., 1795, and located where Wm. Haskins now lives. Not a tree was felled on the lot, excepting what had been felled by hunters in trapping for furs; but he went to work and soon had a spot cleared, a log-house up and ready to occupy. He raised a large family, and resided on the same place till his death. He kept the first public house in town, and was the first justice of peace. He and his exemplary wife united with the Congregational church. She died about 1821, and he married again. He commenced a journal of his life and business Mar. 28, 1796. The last record is dated June 10, 1847. He died June 25, 1847. His last words were, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," etc. Dea. Pitkin of Montpelier, his second son, kept the first store in town. None of his descendants remain in Marshfield.

## HON. STEPHEN PITKIN

came with his wife into this town March 1, 1795. He had a large farm, pleasantly located, where Bowman Martin now resides. He was very well educated for the times, and possessed of a strong mind, and great energy. His keen eye, and commanding look gave evidence he was one to lead others, rather than one to be led. His influence was great in the business transactions of the town. He was the first town representative; held the office in all, 13 years; was first militia captain, eventually became a major, and was assistant county judge 4 years.

He was considerate of the poor, and the writer is informed by his nephew, James Pitkin, Esq., that in the cold season of 1816 and '17, when almost no provisions were raised, he bought salmon at Montpelier by the barrel, when he had to be trusted for it himself, and sold it out to those in need, taking his pay when they could work for it. He continued to reside on the same farm till his death, which took place May 22, 1834, age 62. He raised a family of 13 children, 12 of his own, one





dying in infancy, and one, the motherless babe of his brother, Levi, he and his excellent wife adopted and brought up as their own. His oldest son, Horace, settled in town, but after a few years, removed to Central Ohio, where he recently died. His second son, Edwin, an enterprising citizen, settled in town, raised a large and intelligent family, was considerably in town business,—and was for many years the principal surveyor in the vicinity. He died a few years since. His third son, Truman, settled in Marshfield first, subsequently in Montpelier, where he died, leaving 3 sons and one daughter. One of his sons, Gen. P. P. Pitkin, resides in Montpelier, and the other two at the West. His 4th son, Stephen Pitkin, Jr., will be particularly mentioned in another place in this history. The two youngest sons went West, where one died a number of years since. Three daughters still live, one in Iowa, and two in Massachusetts.

#### CAPT. STEPHEN RICH,

born in Sutton, Mass., at 15 became a soldier in the Revolutionary war, as a substitute for his father. He was at the taking of Burgoyne, and in a number of other battles. He came to Marshfield in Feb. 1798, and settled where his grandson Samuel D. Hollister now resides. He was the first selectman of Marshfield and first town clerk; held the office 7 years. His only son George, was also town clerk 7 years. He removed to Montpelier, where he died. Capt. Rich filled various town offices, and was an esteemed citizen. He accumulated a large property, and had, besides the son mentioned, a family of five daughters. He resided where he first settled till his death, at the age of 83. His wife, a woman of uncommon energy, survived some years after his decease.

#### CAPT. JOSIAH HOLLISTER.

Born in E. Hartford, Ct., came to Marshfield about the year 1806. He married Phebe, daughter of Capt. Stephen Rich, in 1809. He acquired a large property, was respected by his townsmen, and had a fair share of town offices. He represented the town in the legislature of the State 2

years, and was chosen captain of a company of cavalry. He died at the age of 52.

#### HON. HORACE HOLLISTER.

Born in E. Hartford, Ct., in 1791; when a young man came to Marshfield, and resided one year with his brother Josiah, and then returned to Ct.; was married to Ruth P., daughter of Capt. Stephen Rich, and moved to Colebrook, N. H., first in 1817, and to Marshfield in 1821. Like his brother, he was very successful, shared largely in the confidence of the people, and was very much in public business. He was a man who had an opinion of his own, and dared express it. He was elected to most of the town offices; was overseer of the poor many years; also, assistant judge 2 years, and senator 2 years. He died recently, aged 76.

#### HON. WILLIAM MARTIN.

BY MRS. SOLOMON WELLS, OF PLAINFIELD.

Among the early settlers of Marshfield, was Wm. Martin, born in Francistown, N. H., July 28, 1786. In 1800, his father and family moved to the frontiers of Vermont. William worked out mostly till 21, to help support his father's family. He worked at South Boston a part of the time, and on the first canal that was built at Cambridge, and went to Canada, owing to the scarcity of money in Vermont, and worked. He had no education except what he picked up, without attending school. At 18, he enlisted in a company of cavalry; was chosen at once an officer, and rose from one grade of office to another to colonel. At the time of President Monroe's visit to Vermont, he commanded the company that escorted him into Montpelier, and took dinner with the President. He continued in the militia, was in the war of 1812, and at the battle of Plattsburgh.

In 1809, he married Sabra Axtell, of Marshfield, and moved that summer to Plainfield, where he lived 4 years, and then bought a farm in Marshfield, about a mile above Plainfield village, where he resided till 1840. His farm was one of the finest upon the head waters of the Winneoski. He had 5 boys and 2 girls, two





of whom are now dead. He held many of the town offices; was constable and collector 25 years; 12 years representative, and a number of times was one of the assistant judges of the County Court. Up to 1840, much of his time was spent in public business. He then moved to Montpelier (now E. Montpelier,) afterwards returned to Marshfield, but finally removed to Rockton, Ill., where he now resides. His wife is still living (1869,) but has been blind for 16 years. He is a man of fine social qualities, and was always hospitable and kind to the poor. He acquired a handsome property, and an accuracy in doing business which but few men possess. He was many years a member of the Congregational church in Plainfield.

JACOB PUTNAM, ESQ.

BY HON. E. D. PUTNAM, OF MONTPELIER.

My father, Jacob Putnam, moved from Alstead, N. H., to Marshfield, with his family, himself and wife, 3 boys and 3 girls, in the spring of 1820. He also brought with him his father and mother, Joseph and Miriam Putnam. They were among the first settlers of Hancock, N. H., where my father was born in 1784. He bought the farm of James English, Esq., on the river road, 2 miles south of the village, 220 acres, for which he paid \$1,400. He afterwards sold 50 acres, and the remainder was sold in 1868 for \$6,200. This is about a fair sample of the rise of real estate in the town in the last 50 years. Mr. English moved to the village, and built a house and wheelwright shop. There were at that time a saw and grist-mill, and only two houses within what are now the limits of the village. The land where the village now stands was then but partially cleared, and there were no settlements east of the river, except in the extreme N. E. and S. E. corners of the town, and there was but little money in the country. Most of the business transactions were in neat stock and grain. When anything of any considerable value was bought on credit (as was usually the case,) notes were generally given, payable in neat stock in Oct., or grain in Jan. following. When

the prices of the stock could not be agreed upon by the parties, three men were selected as appraisers, their appraisal to be binding upon the parties. A pair of good oxen were worth about \$50 to \$60; cows, \$12 to \$15; corn and rye were worth 50 cts. per bushel; oats, 20 cents; potatoes, 12 to 20 cents. Good crops of wheat were generally raised in town, and I can recollect of wheat being carried as late as 1824, to Troy, N. Y., for a market. There was no manufacturing to any considerable extent done in this country as early as 1820. Nearly all the clothing was made at home by hand. The spinning-wheel and loom might be found in almost every house, and among my earliest recollections is the buzz of the wheel and the thumping of the old loom, and whenever there came a pleasant, sunny day in March, the flax-break might be heard at almost every farmer's barn, and very well do I recollect the "big bunches" of woolen and linen yarn which "ornamented" the kitchen of the old homestead, spun by my mother and sisters. The words of Proverbs, "She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh diligently with her hands," were peculiarly applicable to my mother. In addition to making all the cloth for clothing the family, she made hundreds of yards of woolen and linen cloth, and exchanged it at the store for family necessities. These days have passed. A spinning-wheel is rarely seen now; if found at all, it is stowed away in some old garret, a relic, and the sewing-machine is annihilating the needle. Are people happier now than they were then?

My father enjoyed the confidence of the public; was town clerk 19 years, and occasionally held other town offices. He lived on the same place where he first bought 36 years, to the time of his death, in 1856, aged 72 years. My mother died in 1864, aged 81. They lived together 52 years. Their children are all living, except the eldest son, Thomas B., who died Apr. 30, 1830. The youngest son, A. F. Putnam, is the present postmaster of Marshfield. My grandfather died in 1826, aged 83 years; my grandmother in 1835, aged 91.



## JONATHAN GOODWIN, ESQ.

BY MRS. H. L. GOODWIN.

Jonathan Goodwin was born at Concord, N. H., May 27, 1784, where he passed his youth and early manhood. He was one of a large family. Were it not for the experience of the late war, it would be difficult for a person in these days to realize the bitterness of party-spirit and controversy, even among kindred, which existed before and during the war of 1812. At a family gathering where politics were discussed, Jonathan being a Democrat, and the other members of the family Federalists, a brother remarked, "as there was a prospect of war, it would be a good time for him to show his patriotism and courage, if he had any." He replied, "it was a pity those who had so much sympathy for the enemies of their country, were not in a position to afford them the aid and assistance they would naturally wish to give." These remarks were never forgotten. Jonathan enlisted as recruiting sergeant, was afterwards lieutenant and captain; was stationed at Saco, Me., Boston and Plattsburgh. At the latter he received an injury from which he never recovered, and was a pensioner the remainder of his life. It is worthy of remark that during the 7 years he was in the United States' service, although at that time the custom of using ardent spirits was almost universal, he never indulged in it, not even after being assured by his physician that probably he would not survive the campaign without it. In 1814, his family moved from Concord, N. H., to Randolph, Vt. After his discharge he removed to Chelsea, and in 1839, to this town to reside with his eldest son. The following summer they built a house, and occupied it one winter. In April it was burned.

It was burned on Saturday. The next day, Elder Capron announced from his pulpit that on Monday the inhabitants would meet to assist Messrs. Goodwin in getting out timber for another house-frame.

On Monday, men enough came to cut the timber, hew it, frame it, draw it over a mile, and raise a house, 28 by 34 feet, in a day.

He passed the remainder of his life in Marshfield; was justice of peace, town clerk 2 years, postmaster 2 years, and often administered on the estates of the deceased, and gave general satisfaction. Although in early life his opportunities for education were limited, he was a person of more than ordinary information, especially in history and the Bible, of which he was a daily student.

In early life he united with the Baptist church in Concord, but during a season of religious interest in Chelsea, was drawn to a more thorough examination of the Scriptures than ever before, which led to his embracing the doctrine of the final redemption of all, in which belief he afterwards continued till his death, Jan. 1867, aged 82, generally respected as a man and a Christian.

## REV. MARCUS M. CARLETON,

son of Jeremiah Carleton, Esq., was born in Marshfield, 1826. When about 15, he made a profession of religion, uniting with the Congregational church in Barre, where he resided with his uncle. He soon after decided to be a foreign missionary, and from hence devoted all his energies to procuring a suitable education. He first entered Middlebury College, but removed to Amherst College, Massachusetts, where he graduated, and on account of a chronic cough went south to study theology at Columbia, S. C. After finishing his course, he offered himself to the Congregational Board for foreign missions, but was not accepted, they fearing his health would fail; but determined in his resolutions he offered himself immediately to the Presbyterian Board by whom he was accepted, and sailed for India in 1865, where he has labored most of the time since. He was stationed first in Ambalia city, but the mission seeing him eminently fitted for an itinerant, set him apart for that work after a few years, since which he has lived most of the time in a tent, travelling from village to village in Ambalia district, instructing and preaching to the people, and having studied medicine, finding it very advantageous to him in his ministerial





labors among the inhabitants, he also administers to them as a physician—sometimes his family accompany him in the tent; but during the hot season they generally remain among the mountains, where he sometimes rests with them during the hottest period. [An account of his family we will not repeat here, as we have already given the same in a notice of Rev. Mr. Carleton with his family in Barre—See No. 1, of this vol. p. 40. A member of the Carleton family tells me he is a man of herculean frame—physically and mentally a very strong man. In a letter to his father in 1879, an extract of which lies before me, he speaks of his good health as a source of great joy—seems to luxuriate body and soul in his nomadic preaching life.]

#### MARSHFIELD MILITARY RECORD.

##### SOLDIERS OF 1812.

This place furnished 8: Abijah Bemis, Phineas Bemis, Obadiah Bemis, David Cutting, John Waugh, Abijah Hall, Isaac Austin, and Philip Delan.

Lewis Bemis, a brother of three of these soldiers, was also from this town, though he enlisted from Barnet. His father and friends all resided here, and he should have a notice here. He belonged to the old 4th regiment, which was sent out under Col. Miller to the then territory of Ohio, to look after the Indians who were making depredations on the frontier settlements. At one time they came to the dwelling of a Mr. Harriman, (whose wife was the daughter of Alexander Parker of Montpelier, and sister of Mrs. James Pitkin of this town,) just about an hour after the savages had murdered and left him and his family. They pressed on, but failed to overtake the Indians, and soon after joined the main body under the infamous Gen. Hull on its way to Fort Detroit. Before arriving at Detroit, Col. Miller saw Hull's treachery, and accused him of it, and challenged him to fight a duel, both before and after their arrival, quite in vain; he surrendered the fort and army without firing a gun. In that fort, among our men, were a number of British who had

deserted and joined our army. The next morning, and two or three succeeding mornings, our army was paraded and the British officers walked along and inspected it, and when they saw a British soldier, he was tapped on the shoulder, and commanded to step out. Where they had suspicions, and yet were not certain as to their being British subjects, they would question them. A number of times Mr. Bemis, though he never saw Ireland, was asked, "In what town in Ireland were you born"? Each time his answer was, "I was born in Paxham, in Massachusetts." One poor fellow, the first time they came round, succeeded in squinting his eyes so as fairly to deceive them, and after that succeeded in slipping down an embankment just in the right time to save his life. About 40 of these poor deserters were taken out and shot. The army, surrendered by Hull, was then taken to Quebec, and confined in a prison-ship on the St. Lawrence, where they were allowed but one half pint of water per day, though their prison was floating on the river, and if any one attempted to let down a cup for water, he was shot down. Three-fourths of the prisoners eventually died from the cruelties there received. The rest were eventually exchanged.

JESSE WEBSTER died in Marshfield, Oct. 20, 1878, aged 83 years. He was one of the Plattsburgh volunteers, and had an application for pension pending at the time of his death.

It is not known that any one enlisted from this town, in the war with Mexico.

But when the great rebellion broke out, that intensity of feeling which thrilled from the prairies of the West to the shores of the Atlantic, found an answering tone among our hills, and by our firesides. And as call after call for reinforcements came, the father left his family, the son his parents, in many cases, alas! to return no more.

They came in serried ranks, the boys in blue,  
Who at their country's call no danger knew;  
Room! room! for Marshfield boys, our  
soldiers true.





LIST OF SOLDIERS FURNISHED FOR WAR OF  
THE REBELLION.

BY GEN. P. P. PITKIN, OF MONTPELIER.

Alphonso Lessor, Co. D, 2d Reg. Pro. Lt., wd.  
Patrick Mahar, F, 2. Wd. & dis. Oct. 31, 62.  
Alvah H. Miles, F, 2.  
Chauncey Smith, D, 2. Died of disease in  
army.  
David P. Bent, G, 4. Died; buried at Wash-  
ington.  
Byron Bullock, G, 4. Died of disease in army.  
Hiram Hall, H, 3. Died.  
John E. Aiken, G, 4.  
Robert A. Spencer, G, 4.  
Edward W. Bradley, F, 6. Wounded.  
Homer Hollister, F, 6. Wounded in hand.  
Asa H. Winch, 1st Bat. Died at New Orleans.  
Joshua D. Dunham, 2d Bat. Died at New  
Orleans.  
George W. Nownes, C, First Cav.  
Ira Batchelder, C, First Cav. Wounded.  
Josiah O. Livingston, I, 9. Pro. Capt. Co. G,  
Oct. 19, '64.  
George N. Carpenter, I, 9. Pro. 1st. Lieut.  
Benjamin F. Huntington, I, 9.  
Vilas Smith, I, 9. Lost overboard Steamer  
U. S. near Fortress Monroe.  
John Q. Amidon, I, 11.  
Jackson Blodgett, I, 11. Died.  
George H. Wheeler, I, 11.  
Harvey L. Wood, I, 11. Deserted.  
Benj. F. Shephard, Jr., I, 11. Died in Hosp.  
at Montpelier.  
Robert H. Tibbetts, I, 11. Killed in battle.  
Alvah A. Cole, I, 11.  
Elbridge G. Wilson, I, 11. Killed in battle.  
Francis H. Felix, I, 11. Injured in shoulder.  
John W. Huntington, I, 11.  
Lorenzo D. Mallory, C, 1st Cav. Pris'nr at  
Andersonville; exch'd, died on way home.  
William R. Gove, C, 1st Cav.  
Charles Nownes, C, 1st Cav.  
Thaddeus S. Bullock, G, 4. Died in hospital.  
Nathaniel Robinson, G, 4. Ball in hand,  
cannot be extracted.  
Calvin R. Hills, G, 4. Wounded.  
William A. Webster, A, 4. Died at Ander-  
sonville.  
Wesley P. Martin, G, 4.  
David B. Merrill, A, 4.  
Smith Ormsbee, G, 4. Shot on picket, died  
from wound.  
Samuel Wheeler, A, 4.  
John Bancroft, C, Cav. Died.  
Parker S. Dow, C, 8 Regt.  
Frederick H. Turner, H, 11.  
David K. Lucas, 3d Bat.  
Edmund H. Packer, 3d Bat.  
Allen Phelps, Frontier Cav.  
Moses Lamberton, do. do.  
Edward L. Wheeler, do. do.  
Leonard H. Fulsome, do. do.  
Frank L. Batchelder, E, 4 Regt.  
Ira Ainsworth, E, 4.  
Patrick Moore, D, 8.  
Lysander E. Walbridge, E, 8.  
Theron T. Lamphere, E, 8.  
Hiram Graves, K, 2.  
Thomas Witham, K, 2. Died, prisoner.

George H. Nelson, D, 2. Badly wounded.  
David Powers, D, 2.  
Henry A. Rickard, D, 2.  
Joseph S. M. Benjamin, B, Cav.  
Francis H. Ketchum, C, " Badly wound-  
ed with shell.  
Eri McCrillis, C, Cav. Died at Andersonville.  
Geo. W. Nownes, C, Cav. Died Andersonv'e.  
Cyrus Farnsworth, H, 4 Regt.  
Horace Burnham, C, Cav.  
Charles M. Wing, B, Cav. Leg broken.  
Norman W. Johnson, F, 2 Regt. Ball thro.  
body and wrist, lived.  
John O. Morse, I, 9. Died.  
James H. Carpenter, H, 11.  
John Graves, Jr. H, 11. Died at Andersonville.  
Solon H. Preston, H, 11.  
William W. Willey, H, 11.  
Walter H. Morris, G, 3. Wounded.  
Charles H. Newton, G, 4. Wn'ded with shell.  
James Aylward, E, 17. Died.  
John H. Amidon, I, 11.  
Charles T. Clark, E, 17. Died.  
James Clark, C, 17. Died.  
William G. French, E, 17. Died.  
Clark J. Foster, E, 17. Badly wn'ded in leg.  
Benj. F. Huntington, E, 17.  
Daniel Hogan, E, 17.  
Wm. E. Martin, E, 17. 1st Lieut.; killed be-  
fore Petersburg.  
Harvey L. Batchelder, C, 13.  
Martin L. Chandler, " "  
Eli S. Pitkin, C, 13.  
Charles A. Davis, C, 13.  
Hudson J. Kibbee, " "  
Sereno W. Gould, " "  
Charles E. Shephard, C, 13.  
Albert Sargeant, C, 13.  
Willard M. Austin, C, 13.  
Orson Woodcock, " "  
Rufus H. Farr, C, 13.  
Benjamin B. Buzzell, C, 13.  
David Huntington, " "  
Joseph Simmons, C, 13.  
Lucius D. Nute, " "

In 1863 a draft was ordered; 34 men  
were drafted, but only one, Cottrill Clif-  
ford, went into the service; 22 paid their  
commutation money. Clifford served his  
time, was discharged, and accidentally  
killed on his way home. I do not find his  
name in our list of soldiers; probably he  
was put in to fill up some regiment sep-  
arately from our other men.

There went out 98 from us, 28 of whom  
never returned. A few were brought back  
to be buried, but most of our dead sleep on  
Southern soil. In the vigor of young  
manhood they went, one and another,  
who were household treasures.

"The loved of all, yet none  
O'er their low bed may weep."

Perhaps the last news of them was, "seen  
on the battle-field," or "taken prisoner,"



and then long months elapsed ere one word could be heard to stay the anguish of suspense. At last came the fearful, "Died at Andersonville."

#### MONTPELIER & WELLS RIVER RAILROAD.

When the history of Marshfield was written eleven years ago, we had no railroad. About this time a charter was granted for the Montpelier & Wells River road, which passes through our town about a mile from the village. The town bonded itself in the sum of \$17,500, and private subscriptions made up the sum of \$30,000. All is paid but about half the bonds.

The first train of cars went through here Nov. 29, 1873. Of course the rejoicing was great.

A year or two later we were connected with the rest of the world by telegraph. The advantage to the public is not easily estimated. The railroad is doing good business. L. D. Nute is station agent and telegraph operator. A private telegraph is owned and run by George A. Putnam and L. D. Nute, from the depot to Putnam's store, where the post-office is located. Mr. and Mrs. Putnam are telegraph operators.

#### THE THANKS OF THE WRITER

are due to James Pitkin, Andrew English and E. S. Pitkin, Esqs., and others, for the assistance rendered her in this work; also to Miss Anna Pitkin, of Montpelier, for the loan of her father's journal.

[We have known our excellent historianess of Marshfield more than 20 years. Mrs. Pitkin was a favorite contributor in our "Poets and Poetry of Vermont," (1858,) in which see from her pen, "The Young Emigrant," "The Fugitive Slave," pages 333, 334. So well has Mrs. Pitkin written for us, and for the Montpelier papers in the past, *Zion's Herald* and other papers, we cannot forbear, not solicited by her, but of our own good will, to place a little group selected from her poems at the foot of her history here—Ed.]

#### A THOUGHT.

BY MRS. HANNAH C. PITKIN.

For thee, busy man, in a forest lone  
A shoot hath started, a tree hath grown.  
The axe-man, perchance, may have laid it low  
For thy narrow house—it is ready now,  
All ready—but mortal, art thou, art thou?

Maiden, thy dream of affection so warm,  
Trust not. The shroud to envelop thy form  
Is woven, is coming, by wind or wave;  
'Tis thine, by a stamp which no mortal gave,  
Thou canst not turn from the path to the grave.

Art thou toiling for wealth, the weary day,  
Or thirsting for fame—there's a pillow of clay  
On a lowly bed, 'tis waiting thee there,  
The mould and the worm thy pillow will share;  
Spirit, Oh, where is thy refuge—Oh, where?

#### TO THE ITINERANT'S WIFE.

BY MRS. H. C. PITKIN.

Out on the ocean, dark and wild  
A little bark was driven.  
One kindly star looked out and smiled  
A precious boon from heaven;  
It warned of threatening near,  
Just, just in time the rocks to clear.

I stood upon a point of land  
Where ocean billows came,  
A beauteous wave just kissed the strand,  
Then seaweed swept again.  
'Twas gone, to come again no more,  
But left a gem upon the shore.

A wanderer lone mid desert's waste,  
Beneath a burning sky,  
Sank down at last despairingly,  
He felt that he must die,  
My Island Home, so dear to me,  
I never, never more may see!

Oh God! he cried. A tiny flower  
Just caught his closing eye,  
And in its winsome loveliness,  
It seemed to whisper "try."  
God lives, take heart, so o'er the main  
He found his Island Home again.

So sister, like the star be thine  
To bless the tempest driven,  
And point to poor despairing ones  
The narrow way to Heaven.  
And in the wanderer's darkest hour,  
Sweetly to win him like the flower.

In blessing be thou ever blest,  
Cheer age, and counsel youth,  
And ever where thy pathway lies,  
Scatter the gems of truth.  
And hear, when Death is lost in Life  
Blessings on the Itinerant's Wife.

#### FROM AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF MARSHFIELD.

CONTRIBUTED BY REV. GEO. E. FORBES IN 1879.

[After the Legislature of Vermont had approved and passed the General Resolutions of 1878, to assist in finishing this work, the MS. history of Mrs. Pitkin, furnished to us for the work in 1869, having





been sent to the Claremont Manufacturing Company of New Hampshire, and by them withheld four years, with the other Washington County papers sent, under their proposition to immediately print. We wrote to Mrs. Pitkin for a duplicate of her history. Unable, from the infirmities of her age and feebleness, from fully undertaking to so do, she engaged the assistance of Rev. Mr. Forbes, who gave us a very reliable and pleasant paper of about half the length of Mrs. Pitkin's paper, with which we were pleased and should have published, had we not fortunately meantime recovered Mrs. Pitkin's papers, which as they are the fullest record, as she was first invited to write, and is so eminently a Washington County woman, daughter of old Gen. Parley Davis, of Montpelier, and a long-time honored and beloved resident of Marshfield, we are assured no other writer could be so acceptable to Marshfield, and none other to the County, and so have given the papers of Mrs. Pitkin in full, nearly; and will here but append a few extracts from the paper by Mr. Forbes, containing information or points in it not in Mrs. Pitkin's paper; while we feel to express under the circumstances more thanks to Mr. Forbes than if able to give his paper more fully.—Ed.]

Marshfield is situated in the eastern part of the County, and lies on both sides of the Winooski river, which flows through it from north to south. The soil is a mixture of clay and loam; the surface broken and hilly, is divided into productive farms. The river valley, and that part of the town lying west of it, contains the best tillage land, which has very largely been brought under cultivation. The eastern part, more rocky, is used principally for pasturage; although in the eastern part in some sections there are some good farms.

The original forests were heavy timbered with maple, beech, birch, spruce and hemlock, and some elm, fir, cedar and pine. In the eastern part there yet remains a considerable growth of spruce and hemlock, but it is rapidly being cut off for lumber. Sugar-maples are to be found in all parts of the town, producing quite as abundantly of sugar as in any other part of New England.

Besides the Winooski river privileges there are two or three streams which furnish good water-power the larger part of

the year. It has not been utilized to any large extent, however, hence the town is not noted for its manufacturing interests. Molly's Falls, on Molly's brook, about a mile from the village, in a distance of 30 rods the water falls between 200 and 300 feet in a series of beautiful cascades. During high water the roar of these falls can be heard for several miles. A good view of these falls can be obtained from the road leading to Cabot. There is also a very pretty cascade on Nigger-head brook, about a third of a mile south of the village, where it is crossed by the road leading to the depot. The town has only one village, which is situated on the Winooski river, about a mile from the Cabot line. The Montpelier & Wells River R. R. crosses the town, running nearly parallel with the river from Plainfield until within a mile of the village, when it makes almost a right angle to the east, passing Nigger-head pond, and threading its way through a notch in the mountains to the Connecticut river. The Marshfield station on this road is one mile from the village, and 15 miles from Montpelier.

It is not known what white men first visited the town's location. This township was purchased of the Stockbridge Indians, (see Mrs. Pitkin's paper,) but it is not certain whether these Indians ever occupied this territory. At the time of the purchase by Mr. Marsh, they were residents of New Stockbridge, Montgomery Co., N. Y.

When the first settlers picked their dwelling-places, Mr. Pitkin settled upon the river near the place where Bowman P. Martin now resides; Messrs. Dodge and Spencer settled further south and west on the higher land. Here was the birth-place of the first child born in town, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Ebenezer Dodge, Sept. 17, 1794, the place of his birth about a mile north of Plainfield village; the place is still owned by descendants of the Dodge family.

The first "burying-ground" was purchased by, and for the use of the town. The first interment therein that has a stone to mark the spot was the infant twin sons





of Joshua and Ruth Pitkin, died January 9, 1800. Stephen Pitkin, Jr., donated the land for the village cemetery, and the first interment in it was his adopted daughter, Eunice Sweeney.

There have been five church organizations in town. At present there are but three, as the Christian, and Calvinistic Baptist have become extinct. There have been 11 school districts in town. The present number is 10, each of which has a school of from 20 to 30 weeks per year. The school in village district has two departments, but employs two teachers only during the winter term, as a rule. The town has no academy, but competent teachers hold select schools at frequent intervals, affording educational facilities for those wishing to remain in town. And the seminaries at Montpelier and Barre, as well as academies in the vicinity, have drawn a considerable number of students from this town. There are but two persons, however, from this town who have received a full collegiate education. Rev. Marcus M. Carleton, missionary in India, and Prof. Curtis C. Gove, Principal of High School at Westport, N. Y.

The principal business of the town has been, and still is, farming. At present there is but little manufacturing being done. There is 1 boot-shop for making men's thick boots and overshoes, 2 harness-shops, 1 tin-shop, 1 photograph saloon, 2 cooper-shops, where are manufactured butter and sugar-tubs, and sap-buckets. Six saw-mills, one clap-board and three shingle mills. Two of the saw-mills are run by steam; the rest by water-power; one cheese-factory, and 1 starch factory. There is 1 blacksmith shop, 2 wheelwright shops, and 3 carpenter-shops. There is a hotel, and a patent medicine laboratory. There are 3 stores, and 3 churches. The town cannot boast of a lawyer. It has 3 doctors, Asa Phelps and George M. Town, allopathic; J. Q. A. Packer, homœopathic.

The town representatives from 1870 to 1879 have been: Moody Bemis, George A. Putnam, L. W. Pitkin, D. M. Perkins.

The population in 1840, was 1,156; in 1850, 1,102; in 1860, 1,160; in 1870,

1,072. The decrease which the census of 1870 shows, is doubtless owing to the abandonment of some of the smaller and most unproductive farms, and the Western emigration of many of the younger men.

#### LEWIS BEMIS.

There are a few pensioners of the war of 1812 yet living. One of the soldiers of this war, Lewis Bemis, enlisted at Barnet in 1808. His son, Daniel H. Bemis, of Lancaster, Mass., writes of him: "He enlisted at Barnet in 1808, and served 5 years in the 4th Reg't. of Regular U. S. Infantry. He was with Harrison in his march through the wilds of Ohio in pursuit of the Indians, and was in the battle of Tippecanoe, when over half of the men in his company were killed or wounded. The man on either side was killed, and he was slightly wounded in the face by a rifle ball. He was in 11 battles and 13 skirmishes with the Indians. He used to relate to his children the story of the soldiers' sufferings while on their march to join Hull, and through Ohio; how their thirst was so intense, that when they reached Lake Erie, in spite of their officers, large numbers threw themselves on the beach, and drank until they died from the effects of it. He was under Hull when he surrendered at Malden, near Detroit, and was a prisoner 26 weeks, during which time he suffered greatly, both for want of water and decent food. Their bread, he used to say, bore the mark on the package in which it was enclosed, 1804. He was paroled, and went from Halifax to Boston, where he arrived a few days before the term of his enlistment expired. He soon after enlisted again in a Company of Light Artillery, with which he went up and joined Gen. Macomb's army the day before the battle of Plattsburg. A part of the battery was stationed at the bridge-head at Plattsburg, and the remainder sent to Burlington, to prevent the British from landing and destroying that place. He was with that portion of the battery sent to Burlington, and so did not have any active part in the battle; but assisted in burying the dead. He was one of the party who



buried the British dead after the engagement. He was discharged after peace was ratified, having served in all about 6 years and 6 months; 5 years under the first enlistment in the 4th Infantry, and 18 months in the Light Battery. He died in 1855, at Clinton, Mass., where he is buried, aged 73."

IRA SMITH.

BY REV. GEORGE E. FORBES.

He was the son of Joshua and Keturah Smith; was born in Woodstock, Conn., Jan. 22, 1800. At 11 years, he came with his parents to Marshfield. They moved on to the farm now owned and occupied by J. E. Eddy. During his minority, Ira worked on the farm summers and attended school winters until he was 18. The school-house then stood near the present residence of Webster Haskins. Soon after there was a school-house erected where the village now stands, in which he taught the first school. He was paid in grain, to the value of \$12 per month, boarding himself. In 1821, he purchased 300 acres of wild land lying around the present site of the Marshfield depot, which he cleared, and cultivated 15 acres, spending a part of his time there, and the balance in working out, until he was 29, when, Jan. 4, 1829, he was married to Hannah Jacobs, and they settled at first on his cleared land, but a short time after, as he purchased, and they removed to, the home of his parents, where they lived 11 years. For about 4 years after selling the home farm, he rented different places, but in 1844, purchased a farm on which the remainder of his life was spent. He died Sept. 18, 1880, leaving a widow, one son, Orrin, who lives on the homestead, and two daughters, now Mrs. Levi Benton, of Marshfield, and Mrs. C. H. Newton, of Montpelier. One son died in the army, and a daughter married E. B. Dwinell, but died a few years after, and 4 children died quite young. Mr. Smith held many of the town offices, being regarded by the citizens as a man of worth and integrity. He represented the town in the Legislature during 1844-5. In politics he was a Democrat, and never failed by his vote to express his faith in the doc-

trines of his party. His last public act was to rise from the sick bed to which he had been confined for several days, and go to the polls to deposit his ballot for the several State officers. He believed in the vital principles of religion, but in accordance with the general character of the man, his faith found expression in deeds rather than in word. In religious sympathy he was a Universalist, and gave his influence and means to promote the interests of that society in town. His morals were always above reproach. He was temperate in deed and in word; drank no intoxicating liquors, no tea or coffee, and never used tobacco in any form; was frugal and industrious, and consequently was enabled to acquire a good property, while generously responding to many calls for the promotion of educational and benevolent enterprises.

He possessed an indomitable will and wonderful endurance from the time that he hired out as a laborer, at 9 years of age, until he abandoned active toil, a short time before his death. He met all duties with a manly spirit, and evinced his willingness to obey the primal law of life—labor. He had a remarkably strong constitution, and when his "golden wedding" was celebrated in 1879, he seemed nearly as hale and hearty as a man of 60 years, though even then there were premonitory symptoms of the disease which caused his death. For nearly 2 years he suffered from a cancer on the lower lip, and during the latter half of this time, especially, did he endure extreme pain and inconvenience in taking food. But under all these trials he exhibited great fortitude, and died resigned to his Maker's will. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of citizens besides the numerous relatives, thus testifying of the esteem in which he was held by the entire community. The funeral services were brief; no formal eulogy was pronounced; his life had preached its sermon, and with a few words of comfort to the bereaved ones, the last sad rites were ended, and the body of this worthy man was borne to its final resting-place. His age was 81 years. "Though dead, he





yet speaketh," in his good, solid, practical life.

#### UNIVERSALIST CHURCH. CONTINUED.

The Rev. Geo. E. Forbès continued as pastor until May, 1880. For 1 year succeeding this date the church had only occasional preaching services, and during this time its numbers were diminished by the death of two members. In May, 1881, the Rev. Eli Ballou, D. D., was engaged as pastor for one-half the time. This engagement continues at present, (Aug. 18, 1881.)

#### MARSHFIELD VOTED FOR THE GAZETTEER

at the town-meeting held March 4, 1879, to send a subscription to Miss Hemenway for the whole work, attested by E. L. Smith, town clerk.

#### MIDDLESEX.

BY STEPHEN HERRICK, ESQ.

The town of Middlesex was chartered June 8, 1763, by Benning Wentworth, Esq., then Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, to the following grantees: Jacob Rescaw, Benjamin Crane, 3d, Seth Trow, Richard Johnson, Lawrence Egbert, Jr., James Campbell, David Ogden, Matthias Ross, Jonathan Skinner, Jehial Ross, Ebenezer Canfield, Daniel Ogden, Jonathan Dayton, Jr., Lawrence Egbert, Samuel Crowell, William Bruce, Robert Earl, Patridge Thacher, Joshua Horton, Job Wood, George Ross, Cornelius Ludlow, Nathaniel Barrett, Esq., Jeremiah Mulbard, John Roll, Jr., Joseph Newmarch, Nathaniel Little, Henry Earl, Richard Jennee, Esq., Gilbert Ogden, John Little, George Frost, Daniel Ball, Samuel Little, 3d, David Morehouse, Jr., Thomas Woodruff, John Force, Joseph Raggs, Jr., Capt. Isaac Woodruff, Daniel P. Eunice, Jacob Brookfield, Jonathan Dayton, 3d, Isaac Winors, Samuel Meeker, Jr., David Loomeris, John Cory, Jr., Alexander Carmica, David Bonnel, James Seward, Stephen Potter, Nathaniel Potter, Stephen Wilcocks, Thomas Dean, Jonas Ball, Amos Day, John David Lamb, William Lamb, William Brand, James Colie, Jr., William Hand, Robert French, Samuel Crowell, Jonathan Woodruff, Ezekiel Ball, Aaron Barnett.

#### THOMAS MEAD AND THE FIRST SETTLERS.

The first settler in this town 20 years subsequent to the above date made his first

settlement here. Having succeeded in finding one of the best lots of land in Washington County, on the Onion River, 5 miles from Montpelier village, here Mr. Thomas Mead made his excellent location. The second settler, JONAH HARRINGTON, chose his location about 2½ miles from Montpelier on a superior lot of land. SETH PUTNAM came soon after with three brothers, Ebenezer, Jacob and Isaac, who were soon followed by Ephraim Willey, Ebenezer Woodbury, Ira Hawks, Solomon Lewis, Samuel Mann, Isaac Bidwell, Henry Perkins, Daniel Harrington, Samuel Montague, Nathaniel Carpenter, Daniel Smith, Hubbard Willey, Asa Harrington, Joseph Chapin, William Holden, Lovewell Warren, Jesse Johnson, Joseph Hubbard, David Harrington, Jonathan Fisher, Isaac Bidwell, Oliver Atherton, Robert McElroy, Nathan Huntley.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN.

Copy of a record in the town clerk's office in Middlesex:

*To Seth Putnam, Esq.:—*

Sir—We, the Inhabitants of the town of Middlesex, petition your honor to grant a Warrant for the purpose of calling a town-meeting in said town of Middlesex on Monday, the 29 of March instant, at ten of the clock in the morning, for the purpose of Organization of said Town.

EDMOND HOLDEN,  
LEVI PUTNAM,  
SAMUEL HARRIS,  
ISAAC PUTNAM.

Chittenden, March 15th, 1790.

In pursuance of the foregoing Petition, By the authority of the state of Vermont, you are hereby directed to warn all the free-Holders and other inhabitants of the town of Middlesex to meet at the dwelling-house of Seth Putnam, Esq., in said Middlesex, on Monday, the 29th day of March Instant, at ten of the clock in the morning. Firstly to choose a moderator to govern said meeting.

2dly, to choose a town Clerk, Selectmen, Town treasurer, and all other Town officers according to Law, and of your doings herein make due return according to Law.

Given under my hand at said Middlesex, this 15th day of March, A. D., 1790.

To Levi Putnam, freeholder of the Town of Middlesex.

SETH PUTNAM,  
*Justice of the Peace.*





Served the within Warrant by notifying the inhabitants by setting up a true copy at my dwelling house in Middlesex.

March 16th, 1790.

LEVI PUTNAM, *Freeholder*.

Mar. 29, 1790, According to within warrant being met, made choice of Levi Putnam, Modera'r; Seth Putnam, Town Clerk; Thomas Mead, Levi Putnam and Seth Putnam, selectmen: Edmond Holden, constable and collector of taxes: Lovewell Warren, Town Treasurer: Jonas Harrington, Surveyor.

Attest,

SETH PUTNAM, T. C.

Recorded May 7th, 1790.

I find by the records in the town clerk's office that the honorable Seth Putnam was chosen to represent the town of Middlesex on the first day of September, 1807, and that the number of votes cast for representative was 30. The general reader will at first think it strange, to say the least, that the town had no representative till 17 years after its organization: but may remember Vermont was not admitted into the Union until Feb. 1791.

SAMUEL MANN, one of the first settlers of the town, bought two lots of land 3 miles N. E. of Middlesex village. I bought the same lots Oct. 19, 1820, at which time I commenced an acquaintance with the inhabitants of Middlesex. I came into the town with my family Mar. 16, 1821. The venerable Thomas Mead was then very far advanced in years, and had a great number of children and grand-children. His son Thomas, and grand-son Thomas, lived in his house, and also Jacob Morris, who married his daughter, making in all four families. Mr. Thomas Mead was a church-going man and was much respected. There was no meeting-house in town until several years after I came, except a small house of one story, which was built by a very upright and benevolent man.

SAMUEL HASKINS,

who built it at his own expense to present to the Methodist church, which was then in a prosperous state here. He owned a saw-mill and grist-mill, and an oil-mill. While he was grinding large cakes of oil-meal, one of the stones, 6 feet or more in diameter, broke away from the axle-tree or shaft, and threw him backward against the

oil-trough, and broke both of his legs. The stone which remained attached to the axle-tree rolled around swiftly against the other, crushing them nearly off, until the sufferer was released by a neighbor, who took away the stone and conveyed him to his house. Two physicians were soon in attendance; both limbs were taken off, but the good man's sufferings soon ceased, and he passed away calmly. I was standing by to behold the solemn sight, and could truly say:

"How still and peaceful is the grave  
When life's vain tumult all is passed;  
The appointed house by Heaven's decree  
Receives us all at last."

After the death of this generous man, the house was changed from a meeting-house to a dwelling-house, and thus remains. It stands near the S. E. corner of the town cemetery, owned and occupied by a grand-daughter of the deceased and her husband.

LOVEWELL WARREN,

one of the first settlers, was town treasurer in 1790. He was much esteemed by his neighbors. Leander Warren, a son of Lovewell, represented the town several times, and was much esteemed by his townsmen. Rufus Warren, a son of Leander, has also represented the town.

HON. SETH PUTNAM

had 3 sons. Holden, the oldest, represented the town several times. Roswell, the second, was an estimable citizen, much esteemed, and the reverend George Putnam was a minister of the Gospel, much esteemed. Hon. Seth Putnam made the town a present by deeding to the town a small lot of land for a cemetery, where his remains and the remains of a part of his family are buried. Their graves are enclosed by an iron fence. Almost all the first settlers of Middlesex were living here when I came. I think the number of men was about 210 who were heads of families, and they have all passed away from earth.

WILLIAM HOLDEN,

one of the first settlers, bought a lot of land about 1½ miles from the village, the



farm now owned by William B. McElroy. Mr. Holden had 5 sons, Horace, William, Xerxes, Moses and Philander. Horace Holden, chosen town clerk in March, 1820, held the office 32 years. At the end of 32 years, his son, William H. Holden, was chosen, and held the office 19 years. C. B. Holden, a son of Horace, held the office from March, 1873, to the time of his death, July 25, 1878, and James H. Holden appointed July 27, 1878, by the selectmen; held the office until September 3, 1878. Horace, William, Xerxes, Moses and C. B. Holden represented the town several times each, and have all passed away, and William H. Holden has also passed away.

#### JOSEPH CHAPIN

was born Oct. 28, 1758. His son, Joseph Chapin, Jr., was born June 25, in Weathersfield, Vt., in 1792. Joseph Chapin, Sr., settled in Middlesex when the town was quite new; his son, Joseph Chapin, Jr., was a farmer, and by industry and good economy, acquired a very handsome property for his children, and left a good name. His wife passed away many years before his departure. She was sister to Horace Holden. Joseph Chapin, Sr., lived to the age of 96 years, and was esteemed by all who knew him.

Joseph Chapin, Jr., had 2 sons. Hinkley, the oldest, was killed instantly. He was a brakeman on the cars, and received the fatal blow when passing through or under a bridge. William Chapin, his son, still survives and has held many important offices in town.

The Chapin family own lots in our beautiful cemetery, and the remains of their loved ones are deposited there. One of Joseph Chapin, Jr.'s, daughters, with her husband, Otis Leland, are living in sight of our beautiful cemetery, where they often visit the graves of their departed friends—their son, their parents and grand-parents, and brother who was killed on the cars.

#### JEREMIAH LELAND,

one of the first settlers, removed from Charlestown, N. H. He died soon after I came to Middlesex, respected by all who knew him; left 3 sons, Rufus, James and

Jeremiah, all of whom have long since passed away, esteemed by all, and their remains are deposited in our cemetery, with the remains of all their partners in life. James, son of Jeremiah, was never married. Jeremiah, Jr., has left 4 sons, all now living, two of whom have represented the town, and Rufus has left two sons, who are now living, worthy men, much esteemed.

#### EBENEZER PUTNAM,

a brother of Col. Seth Putnam, was a man about 50 years of age when I came to live in Middlesex, in 1821. He was a very pleasant, social man, and worked with me to score timber for a barn. His son, Russel, hewed the timber. Soon after, Russel was taken sick. I visited him several times. His sufferings were very great before he passed away. He left several daughters and one son, whose name was Holden, who was a sheriff of good repute, and enlisted in the last war, and lost his life in the defence of his country.

#### JACOB PUTNAM,

another brother of Col. Seth Putnam, settled on a branch of Onion river in Middlesex, about 5 miles above Montpelier village. I became acquainted with him soon after I came to the town. He was a man of good understanding. I was associated with him and Nathaniel Carpenter in making an appraisal of all the real estate in Middlesex soon after I came. He died many years since. His son, C. C. Putnam, and C. C. Putnam, Jr., are persevering men and good citizens.

ISAAC PUTNAM, another brother of Seth Putnam, lived in Montpelier, and passed away to the spirit life, leaving a good name and a respectable posterity.

#### NATHANIEL CARPENTER

was one of the first settlers: voted for town representative in September, 1807; was town clerk in all 9 years, and a justice of the peace, I think, 30 years, or more. He died in the winter of 1837. In 1821, when I came to live here, he lived one mile from our village and 5 miles from Montpelier village. He had 4 sons by a second mar-





riage; two or more by a previous marriage; his four last sons were, N. M. Carpenter, Don P. Carpenter, and Heman and Albert. Don P. Carpenter has been one of the side judges of Washington County Court, and Heman, judge of Washington County Probate Court, and N. M. Carpenter is a respectable and successful farmer. I know less of Albert, as he settled in a distant state.

#### CAPT. ROBERT MCELROY,

one of the first settlers, lived 2 miles from Middlesex village. His family were an aged mother, who emigrated from Scotland, his wife, 4 sons and 3 daughters. Ira, the oldest son, died single; Harry, the second son, had 3 sons, Clesson R. and H. L. McElroy, and Wm. B. McElroy. Lewis had 2 sons and Jeremiah 2 sons, in all, 7 grandsons. Capt. Robert McElroy and wife, mother and 4 sons, have passed away. Harry McElroy's third son, Wm. B. McElroy, was chosen town clerk, Sept. 3, 1878.

It will be observed by this that Capt. Robert McElroy has left a good record. In addition to the above I think it is my duty to state that Harry McElroy's eldest son, Clesson R. McElroy, was a lieutenant in the army and a valiant officer, held in high esteem by both officers and soldiers, and Harry McElroy's second son, H. L. McElroy, has been superintendent of common schools in Middlesex for several years, and as such highly esteemed.

#### JESSE JOHNSON

was one of the first settlers, and voted for representative in 1807. He was far advanced in life in 1820. His son, Jesse Johnson, Jr., was a man in the prime of life, and lived about 50 years after 1820, and was for many years associated with Moses Holden, his son-in-law, in trade. They were esteemed by all who knew them, were good economists, and accumulated a large property, and have passed away. They have left no son to perpetuate their names.

#### EPHRAIM WILLEY

was one of the first settlers, and had 2 sons, Hubbard and Benjamin, who were in

the prime of life in 1820. They have all passed away; but have left a great number of children and grand-children to perpetuate their memory, all of whom are respectable citizens, even as their fathers and grandfathers before them were.

#### RUFUS CHAMBERLIN, ESQ.,

one of the first settlers, was in 1821 a man far advanced in life, and had then living 5 sons and 3 daughters. His oldest son, Clesson, died in Massachusetts. Oliver A. Chamberlin, the second son, and A. L. Chamberlin, the fourth, are still living. Rufus Chamberlin, Esq., and wife, 2 daughters and 3 sons, have passed from this life, but not without leaving children and grandchildren to perpetuate their memory, though most of the grandchildren have passed away. I will name a few: Wm. H. Holden, C. B. Holden, Martha Holden; children of Horace Holden and his wife, Mary Chamberlin, and Mary, also a daughter of Oliver A. Chamberlin. Our town clerk is a son of Harry McElroy and his wife, Mary Ann, dau. of Rufus Chamberlin, both of whom have passed away.

#### MERCHANTS AND STORES, 1879.

We have three stores in Middlesex village, one owned and occupied by Benjamin Barrett and James H. Holden. One by J. Q. Hobart, and one by N. King Herrick, all doing a good business without danger of failing. Our merchants are as reliable as those of Montpelier, and I choose to patronize them.

We have at this date, Jan. 1879, no physician in town. Nearly all of the people of Middlesex employ the physicians who live in Montpelier village.

#### MEETING-HOUSES AND CHURCHES.

We have three meeting-houses, all good; one good brick one in the village, near the passenger depot, one built of wood in the center of the town, and another of wood in the small village denominated Shady Rill. They are all kept well painted and in good repair. The one in Middlesex village is now occupied by the Methodists one-half of the time, and seldom at any other time, and it is about the same as to the house in the center of the town. The meeting-





house in Shady Rill was built about 30 years ago, by the Freewill Baptists, and it is occupied by those who built it, and their posterity. There was a Congregational church in this town when the brick meeting-house was built, but there is not now. I think it passed away about 1845. The Methodist church has about 36 members at this time. The Freewill Baptist church, I think, is about the same as to numbers.

The Methodist denomination own a good and well-finished parsonage house and out-buildings, all well arranged, near the brick meeting-house in Middlesex.

#### MICAH HATCH

was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was an early settler of Middlesex. He bought two or more good lots of land, 4 miles north of Montpelier village. He had 2 sons, Micah and David; David had 2 sons, Zenas and Gardner. Zenas was drafted and lost his life in defence of his country. A daughter of Micah Hatch was the mother of the Hon. Zenas Upham, one of the side judges of Orange County Court in 1878.

#### SOLOMON LEWIS

was an early settler of Middlesex, and settled on the North branch of Onion river, 6 miles north of Montpelier village. William Lewis, a son of Solomon, owned and occupied the farm for many years, and said farm is now owned by Lathrop Lewis, a son of the late William Lewis. I could say much in commendation of Mr. Solomon Lewis and his son William, and of his grandson, Lathrop, all of whom have been good citizens.

#### EZRA CUSHMAN

was one of the early settlers, a respectable merchant, and associated as such with Theophilus Cushman, his nephew, in trade in Middlesex village in the early settlement of the town, was a man in whom the people all had the utmost confidence. He married a daughter of Hon. Seth Putnam. Their son, the Rev. Lewis Cushman, a Methodist minister much esteemed, has been engaged in the ministry more than 30 years, previous to 1879.

#### CAPT. ZERAH HILLS

was one of the early settlers of this town. He had 3 sons, Lorenzo, Justin and Zerah. Zerah built the house above described, and had it very nearly completed when the Rebel war commenced, and he enlisted in defence of our country, and died in its defence June 25, 1863, lamented by all who knew him.

#### COL. HUTCHINS

was one of the early settlers of Middlesex. He had two sons, Timothy and Solomon. Solomon married a sister of ex-Governor Paul Dillingham. Solomon Hutchins kept a public house in Middlesex village when the town was quite new. I think the house was the first public house kept in Middlesex. Solomon Hutchins and his immediate family have long since passed away, but leaving a respectable posterity of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

March, 1879.

#### MIDDLESEX CONCLUDED.

BY VOLNEY V. VAUGHN, ESQ.

The township, situated on the north side of the Winooski river, 30 miles from the mouth of the river at Burlington, lat. 44°, 20', long. 4°, 2', is bounded N. by Worcester, E. by East Montpelier and Montpelier, S. by Berlin and Moretown, from which it is separated by the Winooski, and W. by Waterbury.

The N. H. charter, by Wentworth, was granted "by command of His Excellency, King George III., in the third year of his reign," and provides:

The township of Middlesex, lying on the east side of French or Onion river, so called, shall be six miles square and no more, containing 23,040 acres.

The first meeting for the choice of town officers shall be held on the 26th day of July next, to be notified and presided over by Capt. Isaac Woodruff, and that the annual meeting forever hereafter for the choice of officers for said town shall be on the second Tuesday of March, annually.

The town was to be divided into 71 equal shares: each one of the 65 proprietors to whom it was granted to hold one share, and 6 shares as usual in the N. H. charters for the Governor's right, the ben-



efit of the Gospel and schools. The Governor's land was a tract of 500 acres in the S. W. corner of the town.

The council of New York established the county of Gloucester in 1770, which included this town, and the first record of a proprietors' meeting found in our town records commences:

A meeting of the proprietors of the Township of Middlesex, on Onion River, in the *Province of New York*, holden at the dwelling-house of Samuel Canfield, Esq., in New Milford, Conn., on Tuesday, ye tenth day of May, 1770.

At this meeting Partridge Thatcher, of New Milford, was chosen moderator, and Samuel Averill, of Kent, clerk.

It was voted to "lay out said township and lot one division of 100 acres to each right," and Samuel Averill was chosen agent to agree with a surveyor and chain-bearers to do the business. It was voted to lay a tax of \$3 per right, to pay the expense of surveying, and Partridge Thatcher and Samuel Averill laid out the 1st division as above voted.

The proprietors held a meeting at Kent, Apr. 13, 1773, Samuel Averill, Jr., clerk. Voted \$2.50 per right instead of the \$3.00 voted before to pay the expense of the surveys.

Oct. 14, 1774, Samuel Averill, Jr., collector, sold 8 lots of land at public auction, to satisfy unpaid taxes voted as above. Partridge Thatcher and Samuel Averill, Jr., bid off 4 lots each, at £1 2s., N. Y. money, per lot.

The first deed of Middlesex lands recorded is from Samuel Averill, Jr., to Samuel Averill of 5 full rights, dated Kent, Litchfield Co., Dec. 30, 1774, and acknowledged before Wm. Cogswell, justice of the peace.

The first proprietors' meeting held in Vermont was at Sunderland, Oct. 13, 1783, Isaac Hitchcock, proprietors' clerk, and the 2d and 3d division of lands were made, and surveys recorded Feb. 9, 1786.

The first proprietors' meeting held in Middlesex was at the house of Lovell Warren, Aug. 14, 1787. Choice was made of Seth Putnam, proprietors' clerk, and adjourned until Nov. 5, same year, and at

this adjourned meeting it was claimed that all former surveys or pretended surveys had been made inaccurately, that some of the lots had been laid out within the limits of Montpelier, that proprietors could not find their lots, etc., and it was "Resolved to hold null and void all former surveys or pretended surveys."

It was voted to lay out the 1st, 2d and 4th divisions in 69 lots each, of 104 acres in a lot, the 4 acres being allowed for highways. Where the village now stands, 30 acres were reserved for a mill privilege, and 104 acres of the pine lands just easterly of the mill site for the first mill-builder, if he built a mill within 12 months. This reservation was the 3d, called the white-pine division, which was laid out in about 1-acre lots, and divided among the proprietors the same as the other divisions. The 1st, 2d and 3d divisions were allotted in 1787 and '88, and surveys recorded in September, 1788. Allotted by Gen. Parley Davis, surveyor; Isaac Putnam, hind-chainman; Jacob Putnam, fore-chainman. The 4th division was allotted by Gen. Davis in 1798.

This allotting, if accurately surveyed, would cover 22,162 acres, which would leave 878 acres undivided land, of which each proprietor would own an equal share. This land, which is north-easterly of the Governor's right, has been taken up or "pitched" from time to time, until it is all claimed on titles of original rights.

By an act of the legislature, approved Oct. 30, 1850, so much of the town as is contained in lots numbering 50, 55, 56, 57, 58, 63 and 64, and so much of the undivided land as lies westerly of a line commencing at the most south-easterly corner of lot number 64, and running south 36° west and parallel with the original line between Waterbury and Middlesex to the Governor's right, so called; thence on the line of the Governor's right to the original town line, was annexed to the town of Waterbury, which leaves about 22,000 acres as the present area of Middlesex.

The change in the town line was made to benefit a few families who lived in the west part of the town who could more con-





veniently attend meetings and go to market in Waterbury than in Middlesex, on account of living the west side of a high range of hills or mountains, that form a natural boundary, and so separate the two towns that only one carriage-road directly connects them. The change brings the town line as now established very near the summit of this range of mountains.

Near the S. E. corner of the town commences a less elevation of land, which extends in a northerly direction a little east of the centre of the town, which unites with the higher range about 4 miles from the south line, and gives the south part of the town a slope southerly towards the Winooski, and the northern and eastern part a slope easterly towards the North Branch of the Winooski, which flows through the N. E. corner of the town.

The surface of the township is somewhat uneven, but the soil is generally very fertile and productive. There are many excellent farms on the hills, and some fine intervals along the river and branch, and although the meadows are not very extensive, they are enough so to form a number of very good and valuable farms.

The land is naturally covered with maple, birch, beech, ash, elm, butternut, red-oak, iron-wood, pine, spruce, hemlock, fir and other smaller trees and bushes such as are common in this part of the State.

The N. W. corner of the town contains about 1200 acres of nearly unbroken forest, covering the mountain and lying along its base, which only needs steam-power in the immediate vicinity, backed by good mechanical enterprise and skill, to make it valuable property.

This town will compare favorably with the other towns in the County for farming and lumbering.

#### NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

Nature has given our territory fully an average share of the singular and odd, and of the grand and sublime.

Among the oddities is a rocking stone on the farm of William Chapin, near the Centre. This stone, weighing many tons, is so evenly balanced on a high ledge that

it can be rocked forward and back with ease. On the mountain west of the late C. B. Holden farm is a high cliff of rocks, from which many heavy pieces of rock have become detached and fallen to the ravine below. These are so placed that they form some curious caverns on a small scale, which are noted hedge-hog habitations. One of these rocks, sheltered by the overhanging cliff from which it fell, which is some 6 feet long, 4 feet wide, and from 1 to 2 feet thick, lies on another rock in such a manner that it projects over nearly half its length, and is so nicely balanced that a man can teeter it up and down with one finger.

A few years ago there stood by the roadside on the farm now owned by Daniel Pembroke, an iron-wood or remon tree, which about 2 feet from the ground divided into two trunks, each about 6 inches in diameter. They grew smooth and nearly straight, and from 1 to 2 feet apart for some 10 feet, where they again united in one solid trunk, which was about 10 inches in diameter; this continued about 3 feet, where it again divided. The two trunks above were similar to the two below for about 10 feet; there it united once more, and above threw out branches and had a "top" similar to other trees of its kind. This tree was cut down by some one who had an eye keener for the useful than for the ornamental.

The only road that directly connects this town with Waterbury, about 1½ miles from the river, passes through a notch between masses of ragged ledges which for many rods rise almost perpendicular on either side to the height of 100 feet or more, with just fair room for a good carriage-road and a small stream of water between.

The channel called the Narrows, worn through the rocks by the Winooski between this town and Moretown, is quite a curiosity. Of this grand work of time Moretown may justly claim a share, but as this town is the most benefited by it, Middlesex history would be incomplete without a description. The channel is about 80 rods in length, some 30 feet in depth,





and averaging about 60 feet wide. Where the bridge leading from Middlesex village across to Moretown spans the channel, the width at the top of the cut is less than the depth. Below this bridge for many rods the rocks rise very nearly perpendicular for some 30 feet, appearing like a wall. Above the bridge for many rods they rise on either side to near the same elevation, but not quite so steep, leaving the chasm only a few feet wide at the bottom, and the river runs very rapidly through the channel. At the upper end of the Narrows is a dam and the mills described elsewhere. Just below the bridge, and in direct line with the course of the river above, is a high pinnacle of rocks. When the river is low it runs the north side of this, and when the water is high it flows on both sides, or surrounds it.

By a survey made by the late Hon. Wm. Howes a few years ago, it was ascertained that the fall in the river from below the dam at Montpelier village to the top of the water in the pond at Middlesex was only 5 feet 11 inches.

There are many things that indicate that at some distant day these ledges formed a barrier that obstructed the water of the river, and raised it many feet higher than the meadows along the river above this place, forming a large pond or lake, that flowed not only these meadows but a part of Montpelier, including the greater part of the village, and a portion of the towns of Barre, Berlin and Moretown. About 2 miles above the Narrows the ledge, near where the carriage-road now is, some 50 feet above the present bed of the river, bears unmistakable evidence of the washing of the waters of the river or lake.

While gazing on this wondrous work  
Of nature's law, divinely fair,  
We feel how great the work of time,  
How weak and frail we mortals are.

We feel the feeling grow of awe,  
While looking on this rolling tide,  
And think these were the works of God,  
In which mankind could take no pride.

Along the mountain side in the N. W. part of the town are many rills and brooks, that come rushing down steep declivities and leaping from high precipices, forming

many beautiful cascades and miniature cataracts, which if as great as they are lofty would be supremely grand. Here, too, are found high overhanging cliffs and deep ravines, and all the sublimity common to the mountains of the Verd Mont State.

But when we stand upon the summit of the highest peak, 3,558 feet above Lake Champlain, and cast our eye at a glance over more than 10,000 sq. miles of the surrounding country, looking down over the homes of tens of thousands of our steady villagers and sturdy yeomanry, viewing the well-cultivated plains and forest-covered hills, and beholding the distant mountain scenery, the winding streams and ever-varied landscape, here we find magnificence and grandeur combined.

It might be said sublime and fair,  
And lofty are our verdant hills,  
And crystal streams from fountains flow  
That turn with ease the swiftest mills.  
Our plains, how grand, how marked with care,  
While each proclaims the work of God;  
And man, with thanks and willing hands,  
Improves the rich and fertile sod.

For the following very good description of our mountains I am indebted to Wm. Chapin :

#### MOUNTAINS OF MIDDLESEX.

BY WM. CHAPIN, ESQ.

Near the South-west corner of Middlesex there rises abruptly from the south bank of the Winooski river a range of clearly-defined mountains, that extends about 20 miles, being nearly on the line between Middlesex and Waterbury, and extending between Worcester and Stowe, a little to the east of the line between those towns, and ending near Elmore pond, in the Lamoille valley. These mountains are called "The Hogbacks" in some of the earlier geographical works of Vermont, but that name now applies only to the south end of the range near the Winooski.

The most conspicuous points in Middlesex are locally known as "Burned Mountain," "White Rock," or "Castle Rock," and "Mt. Hunger." This Mt. Hunger is nearly on the line between Middlesex and Worcester, and a little east of the corners of the four towns, Middlesex, Worcester, Stowe and Waterbury. Its height is 3648 feet above the sea.



As the topmost stone of this mountain, which is the highest point in the range, is doubtless in the town of Worcester, that town may perhaps fairly claim the honor of having within its limits one of the pleasantest places of public resort to be found in New England.

The name of Mt. Hunger was given by a party of hunters who went out from Middlesex Centre on a winter's day, some 60 years ago, to hunt for deer on this mountain. Lost in the vast woods, they had to stay out all night, with nothing to eat save one partridge, and that without salt or sauce. When they got home the next day, half starved and wholly tired out, they said they had been on *Mount Hunger*. Not an inviting name, certainly, but very appropriate to the occasion.

The only comfortable way and road to the summit at the present time is in and through Middlesex. From the earliest settlement of the town this has been a favorite resort for all who have had sufficient hardihood of muscle and wind to make the first ascent. But the way was rough, tangled and steep. A better way was needed, and in due time was made. The Mt. Hunger road was commenced in October, 1877, and completed June 1, 1878. It was on its first survey 2 miles and 16 rods in length, extending from the public highway in Middlesex to the summit of the mountain. The first 500 rods was made a good, safe and comfortable carriage road. The last half mile is very steep, and only a foot-path could be made, but the path is so well provided with stairs and other conveniences that children 6 years of age have gone up safely, and men of 86 years have gone up without difficulty. [The late Hon. Daniel Baldwin, of Montpelier, twice after 86 years of age.] Many teams of one to 6 horses drawing carriages from two to 20 persons, have gone up and down this road in the summers of 1878, '79 and '80, without an accident or mishap to any one.

To build such a road, through a dense forest of spruce, birch and maple woods, was no small undertaking, requiring some courage, much capital and a vast amount

of hard labor. Thousands of trees had to be dug up by the roots—giant birches that clung to the ground for dear life, well-rooted spruce, and tough beeches and maple; thousands of knolls and hills had to be graded or removed, and hardest of all, thousands of rocks and ledges to be blasted, dug out, or got around in some way.

Hundreds of feet of bridging had to be built across the many little brooks and rills that come down the mountain sides. The longest bridge is in Middlesex, near the Worcester line, and is 137 feet long. At the upper end of the carriage-road is a level plateau that has been well cleared of the undergrowth and made smooth, and here a barn has been built to accommodate travelers with teams. The grade of the road is necessarily somewhat steep, but as it is a continual rise from the foot to summit, no very sharp or steep pitches are to be found in the whole length of it.

This road was built by Theron Bailey, Esq., of Montpelier, proprietor of the "Pavilion," and is owned and occupied by him as a toll road, the various land-owners on the route having deeded him the right of way, and some 25 acres of land for building and standing ground at the top.

The construction of this road was under the superintendence of Wm. Chapin, Esq., of Middlesex Centre, and was completed, with the exception of stairs and bridges, in 60 working days, and with a gang of less than 20 men.

Whether this road will be kept up in repair or not, remains to be seen. The mountain top is one of the pleasantest places of earth, and will be visited so long as people inhabit the country; standing in an isolated position, it commands a view of the whole country; to the east, to the White Mountains, west, to the Adirondacks, north, to the Canadian Provinces, and south, to the Massachusetts line; a score of villages, many lakes and ponds, and, best of all, thousands of New England farms and homes.

Among those who visited here in the olden time was the late Daniel P. Thompson, of Montpelier, who climbed up, fol-





lowing the town line for a guide, about 1833, and no doubt much of the sublime mountain scenery so beautifully described in "May Martin," "The Green Mountain Boys," and other Vermont stories, was studied from nature here.

The tops of all of these mountains were covered with timber at the settlement of the town; now some 10 acres are burned down to the bare rock on the top of Mt. Hunger, about the same area on "White Rock," and on Burned Mountain the fire has cleared some 30 to 40 acres. The spaces thus opened afford the finest outlook upon the surrounding country.

"Now on the ridges, bare and bleak,  
Cool 'round my temples sighs the gale.  
Ye winds! that wander o'er the Peak,  
Ye mountain spirits! hail!  
Angels of health! to man below  
Ye bring celestial airs;  
Bear back to Him, from whom ye blow,  
Our praises and prayers."

Middlesex Centre, 1880.

W. C.

#### WATER-POWER, MILLS AND FRESHETS.

The town is abundantly watered by springs, brooks and rivers. There are but very few houses in town that are not supplied with a stream of clear, pure, soft water, running from some never-failing spring.

Numerous brooks rise among the mountains and on the hills, and flow across the town. One called Big brook rises N. W. of the Centre, flows a southerly course to near the centre of the town, then flows south-westerly to the Winooski, emptying just above the village.

On this stream, about half a mile from its mouth, has been a saw-mill the greater part of the time for upwards of 60 years, and at different times there have been mills at three other places on the stream, one being near the Centre. The best of these mills, built by Solomon Hutchins about 20 years ago, was destroyed by fire soon after it was completed. The other mills have rotted down, been damaged by freshets and never repaired, or been taken down, and at present there is no mill on the stream; but there is a repair shop, owned by Myron Long, in place of the mill first described.

Along the mountains northerly of the height of land near the Centre, rise many brooks, which, flowing south-easterly and uniting, form a quite large stream, which empties into North Branch about 5 miles from Montpelier village.

The two largest of these brooks unite at Shady Rill, about one mile from the Branch, and here in the year 1824, Jeduthan Haskins and Ira McElroy built a saw-mill on the right bank of the stream, which stood about 4 years, and was washed away by a freshet. It was rebuilt soon after by Haskins on the other side of the stream. This mill stood until about 1850, when it was washed away and never rebuilt. On the east stream of the two that unite at Shady Rill, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile above that place, a saw-mill was built some years ago. In 1869, or '70, this mill was bought by Isaac W. Brown, of Montpelier, who put in a clapboard mill, which was run by John Hornbrook until 1872.

In 1872, W. H. Billings came from Waitsfield and bought the mill. He ran the old mill 2 years, and his brother, J. J. Billings, went in company with him. The fall of 1875, they built a new mill, 34 by 60 feet, and put in a small engine to run part of the machinery. In this mill they did a good business, which was increasing each year until the mill was burned, May 8, 1880. At that time they had several thousand logs in the mill-yard, and they immediately commenced clearing out the debris of the burned mill, and laying the foundation for a large new mill, 48 feet by 96. They put in a 75 horse-power engine, and commenced cutting out boards and timber July 17, and in the course of the summer they nearly finished the mill and put in all the machinery necessary for cutting, planing and matching boards, and sawing and dressing clapboards. It is now, Jan. 1881, one of the best mills in the State, and capable of turning out 10 car-loads of dressed lumber per month. There is another mill, on another stream, about half a mile west of this mill, now owned by Geo. W. Willey.

In 1815, Esquire Bradstreet Baldwin came from Londonderry, and built a mill





where Putnam's mills now stand, on North Branch, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Montpelier, since which there has been a mill there.

We are favored by the following description of these mills through the kindness of C. C. Putnam, Esq:

"The north branch of the Winooski, which empties into the main stream at Montpelier, flows through the N. E. corner of Middlesex, about 3 miles, on which is situated one of the best mill privileges in the State, with a fall of 32 ft., on which was erected a mill in 1815, by Bradstreet Baldwin, son of Benjamin Baldwin, of Londonderry, Vt. The mill built by Bradstreet Baldwin, on the above-mentioned privilege, was owned and occupied by several parties until purchased by C. C. Putnam and Jacob Putnam, about 1845. At that time the capacity of the mill was about 100,000 ft. per annum. The old mill was situated on the west side of the stream at the top of the fall. In 1854, was erected a large double gang-mill on the east side of the stream below the fall to take advantage of the 32-feet fall, together with a grist-mill and machinery for dressing lumber. The latter was consumed by fire in 1862. The same year was erected by C. C. Putnam on the same site, the mill now standing, with two large circular saws. Since then have been added to the mill, planers, matchers, edging-saw, butting-machine and band-saw for cutting out chair stock, the capacity of the mill being 2,000,000 ft. dressed lumber per year. The past year, C. C. Putnam & Son, the present owners, have shipped 150 car-loads of dressed lumber to New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, valued from \$25,000 to \$30,000. The most of this lumber is cut on their land in Worcester, and floated down the stream. In connection with their lumber business they have a supply store, containing all necessities for their workmen and public generally, doing a business of from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year."

Henry Perkins came to town somewhere about 1800, and built the first grist and saw-mill at the Narrows, where the village stands. He lived in the Widow Aaron

Ladd house, one of the two first houses in the village. Soon after, Samuel Haskins built an oil-mill, and Thomas Stowell built a clothing-works mill.

In those early days, when news were conveyed on horseback as the swiftest means; when freighting between here and Boston was mostly done with oxen; before Arkwright had invented the spinning Jenny, or carding-machines were known; when the women did all the carding and spinning by hand; when farmers had to go a great way to mill, and carry their grist on horseback, or on their shoulders; when the meat mostly used was that of wild game, and salt to season it sometimes \$3.58 per bu.; when 8 children were called an average family, and 12 or 13 not uncommon, and boys and girls were not afraid of work; when the "goode housewyfe" found ample time to spin yarn from wool, flax and tow, and weave cloth to clothe all in her goodly family, works were then in vogue and built for coloring, fulling, pressing and dressing cloth. In May, 1818, a freshet swept away the clothing-works, but they were soon built up again.

At the time of this freshet Luther Haskins was moving from the farm which he sold to Stephen Herrick in 1820, and which Mr. Herrick still owns and occupies. He got his cattle as far as the river, and could get them no farther on account of high water. Nathaniel Daniels and John Cooms undertook to go from the village in a boat to take care of the cattle. They had proceeded some 20 rods up the river, when the current upset the boat. Cooms swam ashore, and seeing Daniels struggling in the water, was about to swim in to rescue him, when some one who considered the undertaking too dangerous, held Cooms back, and Daniels was drowned.

Nov. 1821, all the mills were destroyed by fire. They were soon rebuilt, with a good woolen factory in place of the clothing-works, which was built by Amplus Blake, of Chelsea, who employed Artemas Wilder to superintend it.

In Sept. 1828, was another freshet, which swept away the factory, grist-mill, oil-mill and saw-mill. Much to the credit



of the owners, they went to work with true Yankee courage immediately, and rebuilt the mills in a stronger and more secure manner, and had them all in operation within 2 years. They were not secure enough, however, to withstand the extensive freshet of July, 1830, during which the water in the Winooski probably was the highest ever known since the State was settled, being at its greatest height July 27 or 28, so high it flowed through the village, and a dam was built across the upper end of the street, to turn the current of the river back towards the Narrows. All the mills were raised by the water from their foundations, and sailed off together like a fleet, taking the bridge below with them, until they struck the high pinnacle of rocks a few rods below the bridge, when, with a deafening crash, they smashed, and apparently disappeared in the rolling flood.

The weather in the summer of 1830 was cold and wet up to July 15. From the 15th to the 24th it was mostly clear and excessively warm. During the day of the 15th, the thermometer rose in the shade to  $94^{\circ}$ , the 16th it rose to  $92^{\circ}$ , the 17th to  $92\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ , the 18th to  $92^{\circ}$ , the 19th to  $90^{\circ}$ , the 20th to  $91^{\circ}$ , and the 21st to  $94^{\circ}$ .

The rain commenced in the afternoon of Saturday, the 24th, and continued till the Thursday following, and is believed to be the greatest fall of water in the length of time ever known in Vermont, the fall at Burlington being more than 7 inches, 3.85 in. of which fell the 26th in 16 hours.

After this freshet, Jeduthan and Luther Haskins built here an oil-mill, which was bought by Enos Stiles in 1835, and successfully operated by him for 33 years. He sold to Y. Dutton, who now owns it. There were many oil-mills in the State at an early day, but they had all been abandoned except two, when Mr. Stiles sold his mill. Mr. Dutton kept the mill in operation for a time after he owned it, and is supposed to be the last one in the State to give up making oil from flax-seed. The Messrs. Haskins also built a grist-mill, which was afterward owned for many years by Geo. & Barnard Langdon, of Montpelier, who sold to L. D. Ainsworth. He has at great

expense fortified it against freshets, and made it a first-class, modern flouring and grist-mill, where he does a good business. He also owns a planing-mill near the grist-mill, and a saw-mill on the opposite side of the river in Moretown, which accommodates many who reside in Middlesex, and has recently bought the old oil-mill of Dutton.

In Oct. 1869, there was a freshet that did considerable damage. No buildings were carried off, but the highways were badly washed, and many bridges carried away. In the town report the following March I find, in addition to a highway tax of 50 cents on a dollar of the grand list, about \$3,000 in orders drawn for extra work and expense on highways and bridges. The river was so high that Mr. Ainsworth's saw-mill teetered up and down on the water, and would have been swept away had it not been securely chained to the trees and ledges.

#### OF THE MINERALOGY

here but little is yet known. Rock crystal is quite common, and some very fine specimens of crystal quartz have been picked up. The largest, most transparent and most perfect specimens have been found in the north western part of the town, along the foot of the mountain. The crystal quartz found here is mostly nearly white. Some of the specimens are traversed in various directions with hair-like crystals of a reddish, yellowish or brown color, and similar to those found elsewhere along the gold formation, so called, that extends through this part of the State. Many stones are also found of which iron enters largely into the formation; and it is claimed that gold has been found in small quantities in the eastern part of the town, but no very valuable mines have yet been discovered here.

#### MAGNETIC VARIATION.

From an examination of the lines run when the town was allotted in 1788, it appears that the westerly variation of the magnetic needle is now very nearly  $4^{\circ}$ , so that lines in this town that were run N.  $36^{\circ}$  E. in 1787, now in 1881 run N.  $40^{\circ}$  E.





## ANIMALS.

The first settlers found in the forest of this town, the black bear, raccoon, wolverine, weasel, mink, pine martin (improperly called sable), skunk, American otter, wolf, red fox, black or silver fox, cross fox, lynx, bay lynx or wild cat, star-nosed mole, shrew mole, Say's bat, beaver, musk rat, meadow mouse, jumping mouse, white bellied or tree mouse, woodchuck, the gray, black, red, striped, and flying squirrel, hedge-hog, rabbit, moose, and common deer.

In 1831, a very large moose left the mountain near the notch road, and wandered towards the village of Middlesex. He crossed the Winooski near the eddy just below the narrows, and went across the meadows on the farms now owned by Joseph Newhall and Joseph Knapp in Moretown, passing through a field of wheat on the latter farm. He then crossed Mad river near its mouth, and started in the direction of the large tract of woods near Camel's Hump mountain. This is supposed to be the last wild moose that ever visited Middlesex.

## COUNTY MEMBERSHIP.

Middlesex has had the honor to belong to Gloucester County, established by the N. Y. Council, Mar. 16, 1770; Unity, established Mar. 17, 1778; name changed to Cumberland, Mar. 21, 1778; to Bennington, being set to this County by change of county line Feb. 1, 1779; to Addison Co., formed Oct. 18, 1785; to Jefferson County, incorporated Nov. 1, 1810; to Washington Co., the name of Jefferson being changed to Washington in 1814.

Middlesex can boast of being the first town settled in Washington County, as the county is now organized; but it was not the first town chartered. Duxbury, Moretown and Waterbury having been chartered one day first, June 7, 1763.

The altitude at Middlesex village was given by D. P. Thompson at 520 feet above the level of the ocean, probably meaning the elevation of the railroad at that place. He did not claim minute accuracy, but as his estimate was deduced

from data of surveys for canals and railroads, it is probably a very near approximation.

## CARRYING THEIR VISITORS HOME.

Somewhere between 1825 and 1830, a carpenter and joiner, named Downer, came with his family from Canada to build the house where Elijah Whitney now lives, for Jacob Putnam, and moved his family into a house about 2 miles easterly from Worcester Corner, and owned by Wm. Arbuckle. Downer, for some reason, went to Canada in the winter, and left his wife and four or five children in Worcester, and during his absence they were aided by the town. Danforth W. Stiles then lived where he had made the first beginning, on what is now known as the Nichols' place, above Putnam's Mills, and the Downer family came there and to Jacob Putnam's on a visit. When they were ready to return home, they procured a team, and a boy started to drive them home and take the team back, but they were met near the line by Worcester men, who turned their team around, and told them to drive back into Middlesex, and they returned to Stiles'. Stephen Herrick was overseer of the poor in Middlesex, and Stiles immediately notified him of the affair, and he started with his team to carry the family back. He took the woman and children, and accompanied by Stiles, they proceeded to within about a mile and a half of the house, which distance was through a thick woods, when they were stopped by two men who were felling trees across the road so lively that after considerable effort to cut their way through, they returned with the family to Middlesex, leaving the family at Esquire Baldwin's.

Herrick went home, arriving there about dark, and rode about that part of the town to inform the men of his defeat and procure assistance, and was soon on the road to Worcester again, accompanied by Elijah Holden, with a span of horses and double sleigh to carry the family, and by Horace Holden, Moses Holden, Xerxes Holden, Asa Chapin, Torry Hill, Josiah Holden, Abram Gale, John Bryant, George Sawyer, Jeremiah Leland, Sanford White, Lewis Mc-





Elroy and others, in all 22 men, with 9 teams and plenty of axes, bars and levers, with which to clear the track, and they were joined by Stiles when they reached his place, making 23 men. When they reached the woods they were again stopped, this time by 16 Worcester men with axes, who commenced to fell trees into the road, as fully resolved to prevent any further tax to support the Downers, as the Boston "tea party" were to avoid paying the three cent tax on tea. The Middlesex men commenced clearing the road, and proceeded some distance in that way, but the 16 men kept the trees so thick in the road ahead, that Herrick ordered his men to leave the road, and cut a new road through the woods around the fallen trees. In this way they succeeded better, and when the trees became too numerous ahead, they dodged again, and brushed out a road around them, Holden following close behind with the family. As soon as it was certain that they would succeed, Herrick proceeded alone to the house, to protect that from being destroyed, and to have a fire when the woman and children should get there.

Very soon after he reached the house, William Hutchinson entered with a fire-brand, and was about to set fire to the house, when Herrick seized him, threw him to the floor, and seating himself on Hutchinson, held him fast. Torry Hill soon entered, with a gruff "whose here?" Herrick answered, "I am here, and here is this little Bill Hutchinson, who bothered me yesterday by felling trees into the road." "Let me have him," said Torry. Herrick released him, when he sprang for the fire, determined to carry out his purpose, but Torry seized him by the collar, and snapping him to the door, gave him a kick that made him say, "I'll go!" "Yes, you will go, and that d—d quick, too," said Hill, giving him another kick, that sent him many feet from the house.

Soon after both parties arrived at the house, and the family was escorted in about daybreak. A war of words followed, with some threatening. One tall, muscular, Worcester man, named Rhodes, stepped

out, and threatening loudly, exclaimed, "I can lick any six of you!" Torry Hill sprang in front of him, and smacking his fists together, replied, "My name is six, come on!" but no blows were struck.

Herrick was soon called before Judge Ware, of Montpelier, to answer to the charge of violating the statute against removing any person or persons from one town in this State to any other town in the State without an order of removal. It was proved conclusively that all the home they had was in Worcester, that they were visiting in Middlesex, and desired to return, and that the defendant only helped them to return to their house in Worcester. Wm. Upham and Nicholas Baylies, counsel for Worcester, and Judge Jeduthan Loomis for defendant.

Although the Worcester people were beat, they did not give up, but arranged a double sled so that the driver's seat was attached to the forward sled, and a blow or two with an axe would free the hind sled and body, and taking the family on the sled, they gave them a free ride up north, and when in a suitable place the driver detached the forward sled, and trotted off towards home, leaving the woman and children in the road, comfortably tucked up in their part of the sled, and where they would be under the necessity of soliciting the charity of Her Majesty's subjects in Canada.

#### POPULATION AND GRAND LIST.

1783, population 1 or 2; 1791, 60; 1793, grand list £280, 10s.; 1800, population 262; 1810, population 401, list \$4770.37; 1820, 726, \$7623; 1830, 1156, \$5720; 1840, 1279, \$8240; 1850, 1365, \$2952.52; 1860, 1254, \$3459.51; 1870, 1171, \$3584.63; 1880, 1087, \$3128; 1881, \$5068.

In 1794, our votes for governor were, for Thomas Chittenden 10, Elijah Paine 4, Louis R. Morris 1, and Samuel Mattocks 1.

It was voted to raise 3d. per pound for making and repairing roads, and 2d. per pound to defray town expenses.

The 5d. on a pound was 2 1-12 per ct. of the grand list, which was a great variation from the 125 to 150 per ct. raised by



the town for a few years past for necessary expenses and highways.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first district extended along the river, but we have not learned the exact location of the first school-house. The district was divided in 1794, the line between lots 6 and 7 on the river, and one school-house built near where the No. 1 school-house now stands, and No. 2 school-house, which was washed away by the freshet of 1818, about half way from the village to where the road leading towards the Centre passes under the railroad.

As the town became settled, new districts were organized until they numbered 13, but at present only 11 support schools, two having been divided and set to other districts. With two or three exceptions, the school-houses have been newly built or repaired within a few years, and are in good condition, and the schools will compare favorably with the common schools of surrounding towns.

The natural division of the township prevents any natural central point in town, and no high schools of any grade have been established here, but many of the larger scholars attend the high schools and seminaries at Montpelier, Barre, Waterbury and elsewhere.

The number of families having children of school age is about 170, and the number of school children only about 225, consequently our schools are all small compared with the schools of early days. About the year 1825 Stephen Herrick taught at the Centre and had 75 scholars; Hubbard Willey sending 10, Ezra Nichols 7, and others nearly as many.

#### TOWN OFFICERS.

REPRESENTATIVES—Samuel Harris was representative in 1791; Seth Putnam, 1792, '93, '94, '96, '97 to 1800, '3, '4, '5, '7, '8, '13 to '17, '22; Josiah Hurlburt, 1795; Henry Perkins, 1801, '2, '6; David Harrington, 1809 to 1813, '17, '19, '21; Nathaniel Carpenter, 1818, '20; Josiah Holden, 1823, '24, '28, '29; Holden Putnam, 1825, '26, '27, '34, '36, '40; John Vincent, 1830, '33, '35, '37; Wm. H. Holden,

1831; Wm. J. Holden, 1838; Leander Warren, 1841, '44, '58, '59; Horace Holden, 1842, '43; Wm. H. Holden, 1845; Joseph Hancock, 1846, '48; John Poor, 1849, '50; Oliver A. Chamberlin, 1851, '52, '55; Moses Holden, 1853, '54; Geo. Leland, 2d, 1856, '57; James H. Holden, 1860; Jacob S. Ladd, 1861, '62; Wm. E. McAllister, 1863; C. C. Putnam, 1864, '65; Rufus Warren, 1866, '67; Charles B. Holden, 1868, '69; Jarvil C. Leland, 1870; Jacob Putnam, 1872; Sylvanus Daniels, 1874; C. C. Eaton, 1876; Myron W. Miles, 1878; Wm. Chapin, 1880.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS.—David Goodale was chosen in 1846; Aaron Ladd, 1847, '48, '49; Stephen Herrick, 1850, '56, '66; George Bryant, 1851; Wm. H. Holden, 1852; Wm. Chapin, 1853, '57, '69; H. Fales, 1854; Anson Felton, 1855; H. L. McElroy, 1858, '61 to '66; Marcus Gould, 1859, '60; W. L. Leland, 1867; C. C. Putnam, Jr., 1868, '70; Elijah Whitney, 1879, '80; V. V. Vaughn, 1871 to '79, '81.

FIRST SELECTMEN.—Thomas Mead, 1790, '95, '96; Samuel Harris, 1791; Seth Putnam, 1792, '98, 1803, '4, '14, '15; Levi Putnam, 1793; Josiah Hurlburt, 1794; Leonard Lamb, 1797; Henry Perkins, 1799; David Harrington, 1800, '1, '2; Ephraim Willey, 1805; Elisha Woodbury, 1806; Josiah Holden, 1807, '8; Nathaniel Carpenter, 1809, '11, '13, '18, '19, '20, '21; Joseph Hutchins, 1810; Ephraim Keyes, 1812; Daniel Houghton, 1816; Jacob Putnam, 1817; Horace Holden, 1822, '23, '27, '35, '36, '39, '46, '47; James Jordan, 1828; John Vincent, 1829, '30, '31, '34; Wm. H. Holden, 1833; Aaron Ladd, 1837; S. C. Collins, 1838; Leander Warren, 1840, '57; Geo. H. Lewis, 1841, '42, '53; O. A. Chamberlin, 1843, '44, '48, '49, '51; Samuel Daniels, 1845; George Leland, 1850, '52; C. C. Putnam, 1854, '71, '72, '73; Jacob S. Ladd, 1855; Moses Holden, 1856; Wm. D. McIntyre, 1858; David Ward, 1859, '60, '66, '67, '68; Osgood Evans, 1861; Andrew A. Tracy, 1862; Jas. H. Holden, 1863, '64; D. P. Carpenter, 1865; Jarvil C. Leland, 1869; Jacob Putnam,





1870; Gardner Sawyer, 1874, '81; Elijah Somers, 1875; Wm. B. McElroy, 1876; Hiram A. Sawyer, 1877; Norris Wright, 1878; D. R. Culver, 1879; C. J. Lewis, 1880.

**CONSTABLES.**—The first constable elected was Edmond Holden, in 1790; Daniel Hoadley, 1791; Jacob Putnam, 1792; Seth Putnam, 1793; Samuel Harris, 1794, '97, '98, '99; Josiah Hurlburt, 1795; Wm. Holden, 1796, 1820; Henry Perkins, 1800; Rufus Chamberlin, 1801; David Allen, 1802; Ira Hawks, 1803; Thomas Mead, 1804, '5, '6; David Harrington, 1807 to '13; Josiah Holden, 1814; Horace Holden, 1817, '19, '24; Luther Haskins, 1818; Daniel Houghton, 1821; Jeduthan Haskins, 1822; Alexander McCray, 1825; Ira McElroy, 1825; O. A. Chamberlin, 1828; Wm. A. Nichols, 1829; Luther Farrar, 1830, '31; D. P. Carpenter, 1833, '34, '36, '37; Gideon Hills, 1835; Stephen Herrick, 1838, '39, '40, '42, '45; Geo. Leland, 1841; Philander Holden, 1843, '44, '46; Geo. H. Lewis, 1847, '48, '49; Wm. H. Holden, 1850, '51; Wm. Slade, 1852; Frank A. Blodgett, 1853, '54; Curtis Haskins, 1855; Ezra Ladd, 1856, '57; Wm. Chapin, 1858, '59; C. B. Holden, 1860 to '74; Myron W. Miles, 1874 to the present, 1881.

**OVERSEERS SINCE 1841.**—Robert McElroy, 1842; Selectmen, 1843, '75; Jeduthan Haskins, 1844; D. P. Carpenter, 1845; Wm. S. Clark, 1846; Wm. D. McIntyre, 1847, '67, '68, '69; Enos Stiles, 1848, '49; Thomas Stowell, 1850; Benjamin Scribner, 1851, '53, '54, '64; Stephen Herrick, 1852, '53; Daniel B. Sherman, 1855, '56; Geo. R. Sawyer, 1857; W. H. Clark, 1859; C. C. Putnam, 1860 to '67; David Ward, 1870; Elijah Somers, 1871, '72, '73, '74; Seaver Howard, 1876, '77; Putnam W. Daley, 1878; H. A. Sawyer, 1879, '80, '81.

**FIRST JUSTICES.**—Seth Putnam, 1789, 1811, '12; Nathaniel Carpenter, 1813, '14, '15, '17, '18, '23 to '30, and '33 to '39; Rufus Chamberlin, 1816; Daniel Houghton, 1819, '20, '22; David Harrington, 1821; Wm. H. Holden, 1831, '32, '33; Horace Holden, 1839, '40, '41, '44, nearly

all the time till his death, in 1865; Wm. T. Clark, 1842; Thomas Stowell, 1843; John Poor, 1853; Jas. H. Holden, 1864, '65, '67 to '72; Marcus Gould, 1866; C. C. Putnam, 1872, '73, '74, '75; D. P. Carpenter, '76, '77, '78, '80. Seth Putnam, first justice in 1789, held the office of justice 26 years; David Harrington, 15 years; Thos. Stowell, 12 years; John Poor, 14 years; Nathaniel Carpenter, first justice, 20 years, and Horace Holden was justice at least 38 years.

**TOWN AGENTS.**—Stephen Herrick, 1842, '52, '57, '58, '60, '61, '66, '72; Geo. H. Lewis, 1843, '44; John Poor, 1845, '53; Holden Putnam, 1846 to '51; George W. Bailey, 1855, '56; Wm. D. McIntyre, 1859; Leander Warren, 1862, '63, '64, '65, '71, '73; D. P. Carpenter, 1867, '68, '69; David Ward, 1870; C. C. Putnam, 1874, '75; Wm. Chapin, 1876, '77, '78, '80, '81; Rufus Warren, 1879.

**COUNTY JUDGES.**—Hon. James H. Holden, Hon. Don P. Carpenter.

**MEMBERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**—Seth Putnam was member in 1793; Rufus Chamberlin in 1814, '22, '28 and '36; Wm. H. Holden in 1843; O. A. Chamberlin in 1850.

**POSTMASTERS.**—Theophilus Cushman was postmaster in 1824; Daniel Houghton, 1828; Aaron Ladd, 1829; Moses L. Hart, 1830; Nathaniel Bancroft, 1831; Moses L. Hart, 1832, '33; Hiram McIntyre, 1834 to '38; Ransom B. Jones, 1838, '39; Horace Snow, 1840 to '45; Wm. C. Stowell, 1845, '46; Harris Hoyt, 1847; A. A. Haskins, 1848, '49; A. H. Hayes, 1850; Jesse Johnson, Jr., 1851, '52; Anson G. Burnham, 1853, '54; Geo. H. Lewis, 1855 to '59; Simpson Hayes, 1859, '60, '61; James H. Holden, 1862 to 1881, inclusive.

**PHYSICIANS.**—A doctor by the name of Billings practiced and resided in Middlesex in 1821; Holdridge soon after; Joseph Lewis, 1825; Samuel Fifield, 1830; Daniel Kellogg, '33; Henry Dewey, '34; H. Dewey and Jona Webster, '35; Jona Webster, '36, '37; Rial Blanchard, '40, '41, '42; David Goodale, '44; F. B. Packard, '45; Chandler Poor, dentist, '45; David Goodale, '46,





'47; A. H. Hayes and B. L. Conant, '48; A. H. Hayes, '49; Horace Fales, '50 '51, '52, '53, '54, '55; J. W. Sawin, '58, '59; H. L. Richardson, '61, '62, '63; O. L. Watson, '65, '66; — Risdon, '79; W. G. Church, '80 and '81.

There might have been physicians in town previous to any named, but I have no such record or evidence. In addition to those named, other physicians have lived in town, among whom is Dr. Zela Richardson, a son of Frederick Richardson, who was one of the first inhabitants of Stowe. The Dr. was born in Stowe in Dec. 1799, went to Castleton when about 22 years of age, and studied for the profession under Dr. Thompson, and commenced practicing according to the Thompsonian system in Brandon and vicinity in about 1824. He moved to Stowe in 1833, and practiced some there till 1840, when he moved to where Silas Mead now resides in Moretown, where he lived until 1846, when he moved across the river to Middlesex village, where he has ever since resided, but for the last thirty years he has nearly discontinued practice.

Among others who have lived and practiced in town a short time each are a doctor by the name of Conant, and Dr. Spicer, Dr. Scott and a cancer doctor named Hill, and perhaps a few others.

#### THE CLERGY OF THE TOWN.

No record has been found of the first preaching in Middlesex, but it is known that about 1812 the Methodist minister of the Barre circuit preached occasionally in town, and that in 1813,

#### REV. STEPHEN HERRICK,

of Randolph, took the place of the Barre circuit preacher, and in his circuit visited Middlesex often, and usually held meetings in the school-house, then standing on the north side of the road, very near the present line between the farms now occupied by Stephen Herrick and Joseph Arbuckle. About the same time,

#### NATHAN HUNTLEY

organized a religious society, commonly called Elder Huntley's church, which in belief and manner of worship was nearest

that of the Free Will Baptists. Elder Huntley continued his labors until about 1822, when through his advice the society decided to disband, and many of the members joined the other churches.

#### ELDER BENJAMIN CHATTERTON

was probably a resident of Middlesex longer than any other preacher that has ever resided here. He was a member of Elder Huntley's church, and was ordained Elder, and commenced preaching soon after the society to which he belonged disbanded. He was a Free Will Baptist, and continued to preach in town occasionally until near his death. He was buried on the farm where he lived, on East Hill, now owned by Charles Silloway.

A list of many of the clergymen who have labored in this town, with dates to show about what time they were preachers in Middlesex: John F. Adams, Methodist, circuit preacher in 1821; E. B. Baxter, Congregationalist, 1831; Benjamin Chatterton, Free Will Baptist, 1834; E. G. Page and Isaiah Emerson, Meth., '35; J. T. Pierce, Cong., '38; Edward Copeland, Meth., '39; Hiram Freeman, Cong., '39 and '40; W. N. Peck, Meth., '40, '41; Elbridge Knight, Cong.; and Wm. Peck and Israel Hale, Meth., '42; John H. Beckwith, Cong., and H. P. Cushman, Meth., '43, '44, '45; P. Merrill, Meth., '46; N. Webster in '47; D. Willis, Meth., '48; E. B. Fuller, Free Will Baptist, '51, '52; Joshua Tucker, Free Will Baptist, '53; L. H. Hooker, Meth., and — Cummings, Free Will Baptist, '54; E. Dickerman, Meth., and O. Shipman, Free Will Baptist, '55, '56; Abner Newton, Meth., '57; J. S. Spinney, Meth., '58, '59; N. W. Aspinwall, '60, '61; W. E. McAllister, Meth., '62, '63; T. Drew, Meth., '64; F. H. Roberts, '65, '66; A. Hitchcock, '67; Dyer Willis, '68; — Goodrich, '69; W. A. Bryant, Meth., '71, '72, '73; O. A. Farley, '74, '75; L. O. Sherburn, '76; C. S. Hurlburt, '77, '78; T. Trevillian, '79, '80; W. H. Dean, '81.

#### EARLY INCIDENTS AND ANECDOTES.

The following account of the hardships of the first family who made a settlement



in this town, from *Deming's Vermont Officers*, 1851, written by Horace Holden:

"Thomas Mead was the first settler in the town and the first in the county. He came from Westford, Mass., having purchased a right of land in Middlesex. He came as far as Royalton with his wife and two or three children. Here he shouldered his gun, knapsack and ax, and set forward alone to find Middlesex, on Winooski river. He went from Brookfield through the woods to the head of Dog river, following that down to its junction with the Winooski, and over that river to Middlesex, having informed his wife that in a given time he should return, unless he sent her word to the contrary. On his arrival he found Mr. Jonah Harrington had made a pitch, and commenced chopping about 2 miles below Montpelier village, where he tarried till morning when he went down the river about 3 miles to the farm now owned by Thomas Stowell, where was formerly a tavern. Here he made his "*pitch*," and a very good one too for a farmer; but had he continued down to the village of Middlesex it might have been much better around the falls in that place.

"He was so pleased with swinging his ax among the trees on his own land, subsisting on such game as he took with wooden traps and his gun, that his promise to his wife to return was not fulfilled. She became alarmed about him, procured a horse, loaded it with provisions, and set forth to find her husband; following up White river to its source in Granville, thence down Mad river through Warren, Waitsfield and Moretown to its junction with the Winooski about half a mile below Middlesex village, crossed that river and travelled up it about one mile, where, to her joy and his surprise, she found her husband in the afternoon of the third day, doing a good business among the maples, elms and butternuts. From Royalton to Rochester she had a bridle path, then to Middlesex were only marked or spotted trees; was often under the necessity of unloading her horse to get him past fallen timber, and often had to lead him some distance. Mr. Mead's family soon moved

into town. Mr. Mead's third son, Joel, was born in Lebanon, N. H., Jan. 18, 1785, she having gone there for better accommodations than Middlesex then afforded. Some time in June, 1785, Mrs. Mead was gone from home on a very cloudy afternoon. Mrs. Mead had to look for her cows, which ran in the woods at large. She started in good season, leaving three small children, one a nursing infant 5 months old, alone in the house. Not hearing the bell on the cows, she took their tracks and followed down the river about 1½ miles, found where they had fed apparently most of the day, but no bell to be heard. She then sought their tracks, and found they had gone down the river, and over "Hog back mountain" to Waterbury, one of the roughest places in all creation, almost; but cows must be found, or children go to bed supperless. She made up her mind to "go ahead," and crossing the almost impassible mountain, and following on, found the cows near the present railroad depot in Waterbury, 6 or 7 miles from home.

"By this time it had become dark, and backed up by a tremendous thunder-shower, rendered it so dark, that returning over that mountain in the night was out of question. In this unpleasant situation, she found her way to Mr. James Marsh's, the only hut in that village, and stayed till the first appearance of daylight, when she started her cows for home on a double quick time, where she safely arrived before any of her children had completed their morning nap. She concluded the children had so long a crying spell before going to sleep, they did not awake as early as usual."

About 1795, Mr. Mead kept a few sheep, the only sheep kept in town at that time. He had to keep a close watch of them and yard them nights, to keep them from falling a prey to the bears that were then plenty in the woods.

One morning he found his sheep had broken out of their pen, and following them a short distance northerly from his house, he found a sheep that had been





killed and partly eaten by the bears. He returned to his house, took his gun, and started in search of the intruders. He had not proceeded far into the woods before he came in sight of a bear that was on the retreat. He proceeded cautiously after bruin, keeping the bear to the windward, and followed up the hill in a northern direction, until he came near the top of the hill, when he again came in sight of his game, and was skulking along to get a better chance to shoot, when his wife, who had become alarmed by his absence and followed him, came in sight and halloed to him. This started the bear, but a quick shot rolled the sheep-thief over on the ground lifeless. The courageous woman told her husband she had seen another bear while she was searching for him, and they started back in the direction where she had seen it. They had not proceeded far when they came in sight of the second bear, which Mr. Mead also killed with one shot from his faithful gun. They then returned towards where the sheep had been killed, thinking to pick up and save the wool that had been scattered by the carnivorous shearers.

As they came in sight of the spot, bruin number three was finishing his morning meal. Mr. Mead immediately settled his account with this bear in the same way he settled with the other two, and went home feeling very well after his before-breakfast exercise. He then informed the few neighbors in town of what he had done, who collected together, helped get the three bears out of the woods and dress them, and all had a "jovial time" and joyful feast.

As the number of settlements in town increased, the bears became less numerous, and when one was seen it was often the occasion of a lively and exciting chase. Sometimes nearly all the men within four or five miles would join in the chase, or surround the woods in which the bear was known to be, and lucky was the animal if he escaped unharmed. Three bears were killed one year at three such hunts. At one time, about the year 1830, a bear was discovered somewhere near the spot where

the guide-board now is, near the Centre, and "all hands" started in pursuit. Geo. Holden, then living at the Centre, where Mrs. Daniels now resides, started with a pitchfork, the weapon he happened to have in his hands when he first heard the cry, "a bear! a bear!" The bear was chased down towards the Winooski, and made his way to somewhere near the river on the Governor's Rights, where, being worried by dogs and hotly pursued by men, he undertook to climb a tree that stood on a very steep side-hill. Mr. Holden, then a strong, courageous young man, was near, and ran to the foot of the tree as the bear was hitching up it, and stuck the pitchfork into the bear's posterior. Bruin, not liking to be helped up in that way, dropped upon his hind feet, and threw his fore feet around Mr. Holden's body. Holden at the same time seized the bear "at a back-hug hold," and they tumbled over on the ground, and rolled over and over to the foot of the hill, and some say into the river, where they quit their holds, and bruin ran until he was out of the way of men and pitchforks, and went up another tree. The word spread rapidly that the bear was up a tree, and the men gathered together and commenced shooting at him. Many shots had been fired when Horace Holden put in an appearance. After amusing himself and others present for a few minutes by cracking jokes and telling stories at the expense of the sharp-shooters, who were too excited to kill a bear, he expressed a desire to try it himself. No sooner did his rifle crack than the bear loosened his hold on the tree and fell to the ground.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN THE EAST PART OF THE TOWN.

Jacob Putnam settled where Elijah Whitney now lives in 1802; Micah Hatch on the old Hatch place, so-called, the same year; Wm. Lewis on the Lathrop Lewis farm in 1805; John Arbuckle where Putnam Daley now lives, about 1808; Lewis McElroy where Dudley Jones now lives, in 1822; Caleb Bailey and — York lived on the George Herrick farm in 1823; Ichabod Cummings began on the Ziba Smith farm in 1824, lived there one year, and re-





moved the next year to the farm where he with his Oramel, now live; Daniel Colby lived on the farm where Frank Maxham and son now live, in 1826.

The most ancient writings with a pen in town, are probably in the possession of James Vaughn, among which is a book commenced by George Vaughn in Oct. 1687; the writing done by him being very neatly executed, and a commission of 1696, given here *et literatim*:

"William Stoughton Esqr Lieutent Governour and Comander in chief in and over his Matys Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. To Joseph Vaughn Greeting, By virtue of the power and authority in and by his Matys Royal Commission to me granted, I do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be Ensign of the Foot Company of Militia in the Town of Middleboro within the County of Plimouth whereof Jacob Thompson Gent is Lieutenant. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of an Ensign by ordering and Exercising the sd Company in arms both Inferiour Officers and Souldiers Keeping them in good order and Discipline, Commanding them to obey you as their ensign, And yourself to observe and follow such orders and directions as you shall receive from your sd Lieutenant and other your Superiour Officers, according to the Rules and Discipline of War pursuant to the trust reposed in you. Given under my hand & seal at arms at Boston the Fifth day of August, 1696, In the Eighth year of the Reign of our sovereign, Lord William the Third, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By Command of the Lieut. Govern'r., &c.

WM. STOUGHTON."

Jsa. Addington, Secr'y.

#### THE MIDDLESEX MONEY DIGGERS.

"May Martin, or The Money Diggers," by D. P. Thompson, is known to be founded upon the fact that men dug here for money, at the foot of the nearly perpendicular drop of a hundred feet or more from the southerly part of the highest peak of Camel's Hump. It was commenced by a few men in 1824 or '25, who built a shanty there, one side a large piece of detached ledge, the other three sides, log of untrimmed spruce and fir, quite young; the

roof formed by drawing in the trees as they neared the top, until the boughs met the ledge above, which shelter being protected from the north and west winds by the high ledge, made a warm and comfortable place, under which the men professed to dig in search of the treasure supposed to have been secreted by Capt. Kidd somewhere on this continent. They were in part directed in their search by a woman living towards the North part of the State, who claimed to see into unsearchable things by looking into a transparent quartz stone or piece of glass. This company subsisted mainly by duping the nearest settlers so as to get them to furnish food. One man let them have his sheep to eat until they had devoured a large flock, he expecting good pay when the treasure should be found. Many were the conjectures as to the object of these money-diggers. Some thought they were a band of counterfeiters, others that they were a set of thieves, while a few thought they were honestly digging for money, and were hopeful for their success.

Their work was brought to a close by a party of young men from Middlesex, among whom was Enos Stiles, who gives the following account of their expedition, he being the only one of the party now alive:

Dec. 11, 1826, between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening, Ira McElroy, Calvin Farrar, Amos L. Rice, Archy McElroy, Jerry McElroy, Alexander M. Allen and Enos Stiles started from Middlesex village for Camel's Hump, with a view to discover what they could of the work or object of the money-diggers there, and were accompanied by Nathaniel Carpenter, then a justice of the peace, who went to act as an official if any arrests should be made. As they started, it so happened Danforth Stiles, from the east part of Middlesex, one Hinkson and one Reed were on their way to the mountain, and fell in with them. There was no temperance law then to forbid, no Good Templars to interfere, and acting upon the principle that which contained the most heat and stimulus was the best beverage for a long journey in a winter's night, they took two gallons of new rum for drink with them, and what provisions



needed beside. Leaving their teams at Ridley's tavern, now Ridley's Station, they took their provision and drink, and proceeded on foot to the mountain, about 6 miles distant. Esq. Carpenter stopped at the last house at the foot of the mountain to await for business, if needed, and the other seven of the party kept on up the steep mountain, through some two or three miles of thick forest.

When about half way up, after crossing a spruce ridge and coming into hard wood where it was lighter, they called the roll, and found one man missing. Three men were detailed to go back and find him, which they did some one-third mile back, lying in the snow fast asleep, having apparently fallen asleep and dropped out of line unnoticed by the rest of the party. Nothing more of note occurred until they arrived in the early break of day at the headquarters of the money-diggers, where they found Rodney Clogston, of Middlesex, the leader of the band, one Shackford, Eastman, and Friezell, up, dressed, with a good fire burning before the shanty.

After looking over the premises a little, four of the party went up to the top, and were there at sunrise playing a game of cards. The south wind was blowing warm, and they suffered no inconvenience from cold. It had been warm for a number of days, and the snow was not very deep at that time. After taking breakfast, well-washed down, the Middlesex party commenced a thorough search for goods, coining implements, treasures or excavations, which continued till about 1 o'clock P. M., and resulted in finding nothing except a little digging done inside of the shanty in the ledge that formed one of its sides, about what might have been done by two men with powder, good drills and a sledge in one day.

Giving up searching, the party came together at the camp and had a social time, until some were feeling pretty well, when one man said he did not want to trouble the camp for anything, and offered to purchase one cent's worth of meat, which was dealt out to him.

Then some of the boys, being possessed

of evil spirits as well as good, commenced to break spruce twigs and put them on the fire for the fun of seeing them burn; this made a division, and two opposing parties were formed. Two of the men from the east part of the town sided with the diggers, and one remained silent and neutral, which made six against seven, when the invaders commenced piling on larger brush, and soon had the shanty in a rousing blaze. The diggers defended their property smartly by words, and declared that their things should all burn and the boys would be compelled to pay for them; but no fighting was done, and before the fire reached any of their things they made a rush and saved their trumpery, and let the shanty burn. The brush was so dry, the blaze shot into the air some fifty feet, making a splendid sight, but the diggers' lodge was reduced to ashes. In less than two hours after, the money-diggers were all on the march for home, thus ending the digging for Captain Kidd's treasures on Camel's Hump.

#### THE COLDEST NIGHT HERE

in the month of July since the year 1816, was probably in 1829. Enos Stiles relates that he worked at haying for Elijah Holden on the farm where Gardner Sawyer now resides, in 1829, and that he and two other men who were mowing on the 10th of July threw down their whetstones on a swath of hay, one above another, and that when he took up the upper stone on the morning of the 11th, the stones were frozen together so that he raised the three together when he lifted the top one. But he says the frost did not seriously injure the growing crops.

#### FIRES.

The only fire in town supposed to be incendiary was that burning the store, tavern-house and barns standing where B. Barrett's store and tavern now stand, and owned in 1835 by a man named Mann. In May, that year, the buildings, with 3 or 4 horses and one ox, were burned, and Simeon Edson, who kept tavern where J. Q. Hobart now lives, was arrested on charge of setting the fire. At a justice trial the jury found him guilty, and he was





lodged in jail to await County Court trial. After being in jail for some time, he got bail, and never appeared at trial, and as there was lack of good proof, his bonds were never called for.

#### THE SAP-FEEDER,

so generally used by maple sugar-makers to run the sap into the pans or evaporators as fast as it evaporates, was invented by the late Moses Holden, Esq., who for many years owned and carried on the sugar-place about 2 miles from his home in the village; was a part of the Scott farm. He was a large, strong man, a great worker, and seldom had any help in sugaring, and often felt the need of having his sap boiling safely when he was away. Hearing a description of a floating contrivance for regulating the amount of water running into the flume of a certain mill, gave him an idea about regulating the sap running into his sap-pans, and he went to Montpelier and told one of the tinmen there what he wanted made. The tinman would have nothing to do with it for fear of ridicule in case of a failure; but going to another tinshop, the tinman made the feeder according to directions, and only asked for a chance to make more if it proved a success. Mr. Holden took his invention home, elevated his sap-holder, put on his feeder, and started a fire. It worked well during the day, and when he left at night, he filled his holder with sap and his arch with wood, and when he returned in the morning, found his holder nearly empty and everything right. He never applied for a patent, but used this first feeder as long as he sugared, and it is still used by Wm. Scott, who bought the sugar-place.

Moses Holden died in May, 1878, at an advanced age. He had always been a resident of the town, had represented it in the Legislature twice, and had filled many offices of trust and responsibility. Many stories are told of his physical strength, one of them being to the effect that he has been known to cut and split 8 cords of three-foot wood in one day. He could lift up a full barrel of cider, hold it, and drink from the bung-hole.

#### BURYING GROUNDS.

At an early date, Hon. Seth Putnam deeded his one-acre lot in the white pine division, which is in the village, on the east side of the street opposite the railroad depot, to the town for a burying ground. The yard is well fenced, and kept in as good condition as the scanty room will admit. I have not learned who was the first person buried there, and the number cannot be very accurately determined, but the cemetery is nearly all occupied.

The following names, taken mostly from the headstones there, show that there sleep some of the brave veterans who fought to establish our nation, and some of the daring pioneers who cleared the dense forest from our fertile fields:

Lyman Tolman, aged 95, Cyrus Hill, 94, Ebenezer Woodbury—Revolutionary soldiers; Hon. Seth Putnam, fourth settler in town, 93; Capt. Holden Putnam, Captain at Plattsburgh, 86; Jesse Johnson, Sen'r, 86; Luther Haskins, 84; Mary Petty Haskins, wife of Luther, 81; Sally, wife of Dr. Joseph Lewis, 83; Polly Goldthwait, 79; Elihu Atherton, 79; Moses Holden, 78; Aaron Ladd, 78; Jesse Johnson, Jr., 77.

As the ripened autumn leaves surely and successively drop from the forest trees and are borne to the silent earth, so are we, in sure succession, dropping from the stage of life, and being borne to the silent cities of the departed. And as the inhabitants of these cities will soon outnumber those living in our villages and along our valleys and hill sides, it seems just and appropriate proper mention should be made of them; and I think much credit is due the inhabitants of this town and near vicinity for the improving and adorning of their cemeteries. The ground now called

#### THE MIDDLESEX CENTRE CEMETERY,

is now one of the most neatly arranged country cemeteries to be found; situated in a slightly, pleasant place, on the east side of the first made and most direct road from the village to the Centre, about 2 miles from the river, on the top of the first of three elevations of rolling ground found in coming from the village on this





road. Along the roadside and within the gate near the entering avenue, is a grove of handsome maples in rows, casting their shade upon the turf and over the pretty, white school house upon the left. The grounds within the cemetery are neatly arranged in 6 rows of lots, with 3 carriage avenues running the length of the ground and cross avenues. Each lot is raised above the avenues, with walk left between each 2 lots, and flowers, blooming shrubs and roses, break the mat of thick green grass and add their beauty to the sacred plots. A substantial wall and close-trimmed cedar hedge inclosing all.

But it is more the tasteful arrangement of the whole that makes the place seem beautiful for every one, than any profuse adornment. The stranger, too, pauses to admire the lovely scenery around as well, and the mourners feel a spirit of thankfulness that their dear friends are resting in so fair a place.

There are some 200 graves here now, with many monuments. Jan. 1, 1812 Nathan Benton, one of the first settlers, deeded 2 acres of land here to Joseph Chapin, Josiah Holden and 16 others: the land to be used for a neighborhood burying ground. In the spring of 1822 there were 5 graves in this ground, but it was in an open field, and had not been exactly located. That year the neighbors met and appointed Stephen Herrick to measure and stake out the ground, and a fence was built around it.

But little was done to improve it more until about 1856, when through the influence and under the supervision of Horace Holden, the friends of the deceased buried there, and others who felt interested, began to kill the weeds and brakes that had become abundant, and improvements were continued from time to time till 1858, when everything was completed nearly as at present. In 1866, an association was formed called "The Middlesex Centre Cemetery Association," to which Aaron Ladd, Asa Chapin, and 21 others, owners of lots, deeded their right and title. Under the Association each one of those who deeded and each one who took an active part in

the work of improving the ground were entitled to a family lot.

#### SOME OF THE OLDEST

buried here are: Elizabeth McElroy, came from Scotland to U. S. in 1740, died in 1823, aged 99; Joseph Chapin, Sen'r, 96; Susanna Chase, 89; Jeremiah Leland, 78; Elizabeth, wife of Jeremiah Leland, 88; Samuel Daniels, 87; Lucretia, wife of Samuel Daniels, 78; Polly McElroy, 84; Sanford White, 80; Maj. John Poor, 79, and Eliza M., his wife, 73—both buried in one grave; Joseph Chapin, Jr., 78; Horace Holden, 74; Marian Leland, 92; Abram Gale, 78, and Mary, his wife, 92; Margaret Mead, 79; Benjamin Willey, 72; Mary Wilson, 73; Hosea Minott, 74; Knight Nichols, 81, and Mercy, his wife, 92; Geo. H. Lewis, 71.

#### THE NORTH BRANCH CEMETERY.

On North Branch, about 1 mile below Putnam's Mills, is another cemetery, of which Mr. Putnam furnishes the following description:

"About 1810, Jno. Davis was buried on land then occupied by him, known as the Scudder lot, nearly in front of his house, on the opposite side of the road. After that time the place was used for a burying ground, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre was enclosed with a log-fence. At that time a man by the name of Flanders lived where Chester Taylor now lives; Levi Lewis and wife, Polly, lived where G. M. Whitney now does. Jno. Davis and wife, Nancy, were the first who lived on the Stiles place. James Pittsly and wife, Esther, commenced on the place known as the Bohannon place, on the east side of the stream, now occupied by Jacob Putnam. After this, Wm. Lewis purchased the Scudder lot and the inhabitants erected a board fence around the burying lot. Oct. 8, 1863, an association was formed called the North Branch Cemetery Association. The trustees purchased  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres, together with the old ground of Lathrop Lewis, son of Wm. Lewis, for \$150, and built a good, substantial fence around it, erected a hearse-house and purchased a hearse. The location being on the main road, and the soil dry



and sandy, makes it the most desirable cemetery in the town."

Some of the oldest buried in North Branch Cemetery were: Clarissa Gould, aged 66; Ruth Minott, 66; Daniel Russell, 68; his wife, Temperance, 81; Reuben Russell, 78; his wife, Susannah, 69; John Gallison, 83; his wife, Phebe, 85; Allen Gallison, 68; Enoch Kelton, 64; his wife, Huldah, 72; Josiah Wright, 76; his wife, Betsy, 84; Nathaniel Wentworth, 71; Elizabeth, relict of Moses Wentworth, 87; William Lewis, 88; his wife, Hannah, 67; Jacob Putnam, 73; his wife, Polly W., 57; Betsy Thayer, 67; Isaac Batchelder, 61; his wife, Mary, 68; David Herrick, 86; his wife, Mary, 85; Stephen C. Jacobs, 76; Andrew Tracy, 75; his wife, Levina, 84; Ebenezer Cummings, 94; Abel H. Coleman, 75; David Gray, 82; David Hatch, 63; his wife, Sarah, 57; John McDermid, nearly 77; his wife, Adelia, nearly 72; Louiza Lane, 72; Margaret Smith, 81; Thomas Culver, 71; his wife, Anna, 73; Zeley Keyes, 76; Micah Hatch, 83; his wife, Mary, 69; Ephraim Hall, 68; Timothy Worth, 84; Solomon Lewis, 89; his wife, Susannah, 70; his second wife, Lucinda, 68; Elizabeth Church, 60; Sabra Burrell, 85; Wm. R. Kinson, 56; Hannah Kinson, 73; Eunice Edgerly, 64.

MRS. LYDIA KING, widow of Elder Nathaniel King, died at the house of her son-in-law, Stephen Herrick, at the age of 91 years, and was buried in Northfield.

#### REMARKABLE CASE OF PETRIFICATION.

In March, 1846, James Vaughn (the writer's father,) and family, which included his father, Daniel Vaughn, moved from Pomfret, this state, on to a farm in the N. W. part of Middlesex.

"Uncle Daniel," as he was universally called in Windsor County, was a man about 5 feet, 10 inches in height, broad shouldered, stout built, and weighing some more than 200 lbs. He was noted for his remarkable strength, his strong, heavy voice, his sociality, his song-singing and story-telling, and was a notably robust man, the solidity of muscle increasing as age advanced to such an extent as to

make it necessary for him to use a cane or crutches for the last 15 years of his life.

He died of dropsy June 3, 1846, aged 78 years, and by his request was buried in a place selected by himself in a slightly spot near the house where he died. The following March the eldest daughter of James Vaughn, aged 16, died of consumption, and was buried in a grave near her grandfather. In Feb. 1855 their remains were taken up to be removed to the family burying-lot in Woodstock cemetery. The remains of the young lady were found in the usual condition of those buried that length of time.

The uncommon heft of Mr. Vaughn's coffin led to an examination of the remains, when it was found that the body had become petrified. Every part, excepting the nose, was in perfect form, nearly its natural color, but a little more of a yellowish tinge, hard like stone, and it weighed 550 lbs. The petrified body was viewed by Mr. Vaughn's family and many of the neighbors in Middlesex, and was also seen by many at Woodstock. A somewhat minute examination by physicians and scientific men revealed the fact that the fingers, toes and the outer part of the body were very hard and brittle, but that the length of time had not been sufficient to so fully change the inner portions of the most fleshly parts of the body and limbs. But it was generally believed by those who made examination that a few years more of time would have made the work of petrification complete, and changed the entire body to a mineral formation, that would perhaps endure for ages.

A biographical sketch of him we have not given, as it properly belongs in Pomfret history, of which town he was an early settler.

#### SUDDEN AND ACCIDENTAL DEATHS.

Luther Haskins, aged about 80, died in a chair in Barrett & Holden's store. He sat leaning slightly back, and was first noticed to be dead by Will Herrick, who happened to go into the store.

Nancy Hornbrook, aged 16, daughter of Wm. Hornbrook, dropped dead at a party at Alfred Warren's, about the year 1856.





When the railroad was being built, Lovina Cameron, aged about 13, dau. of Ira Cameron, of this town, was visiting in Berlin. She and a cousin and another girl were walking over the railroad bridge near Montpelier Junction, stepping from one stringer to another, all having hold of hands, when one made a misstep, and Miss Cameron and her cousin fell through into the river and were drowned.

U. W. Goodell, nephew of L. D. Ainsworth, was struck on the forehead by a stick thrown by a circular saw while working in Mr. Ainsworth's saw-mill, and lived but a few hours.

Chester Newton, while working in the same mill, helping to saw logs, was twitched upon the large circular saw, by the saw catching a board he was moving, and so horribly mangled that he lived but a short time.

Alvaro, son of Frederick Richardson, brakeman on the cars, aged 26 years, was killed by his head striking the timbers overhead in the dry-bridge at Waterbury, in 1879. Hinkley Chapin, aged 22, was killed at the same place, and in the same way, in 1851.

In 1872, Louis Amel's house, on east hill, caught fire from smoking meat in the wood-shed, and Mr. Amel was overcome by the flames while removing property, and burned with the house. Age, 51 yrs.

Nathaniel Daniels was drowned in 1818; see account of freshets. George, a son of Hiram Williams, was drowned in the river below the Narrows, while bathing, aged about 16. Frank, son of Osgood Evans, was in a boat above the Narrows, one paddle broke, and he went over the falls and was drowned. His body was found in the eddy below the Narrows. The only son of Asa Chapin, was drowned in a spring while drawing water for use in the house, and a little son of Samuel Mann was drowned in a spring on the Stephen Herrick farm.

James Daniels, aged about 78, living at Lawrence Fitzgerald's, was found dead in bed in the morning.

There have been 10 cases of suicide in the last 60 years by Middlesex people, 7 of which were committed in town.

#### STEPHEN HERRICK.

BY THE EDITOR.

We do not usually give sketches of the living, but the senior writer of this town history being so aged a man, and it being somewhat remarkable in his case that of 210 men living in the town when he settled here, who had families, that he has been the last survivor of them all for eight and a half years past, it seems a moderate autobiographic record in such circumstances is admissible.

Mr. Herrick is of English and Scotch descent, son of Stephen, senior; born in Randolph, Vt., Feb. 19, 1795. In the fall of 1820, he came to Middlesex, and selected his location, bought in October, but returned to Randolph, taught school that winter after in Brookfield, and returned to Middlesex in April, 1821. He bought his farm of Reuben Mann, son of Samuel, who was one of the first settlers, and where Mr. H. has continued to reside for the past 61 years. He married Lydia, dau. of Rev. Nathaniel King; their children: Eliza—mar. 1st, Chester Pierce of N. H., 2d, Samuel Warren of Middlesex, 3d, Adin Miles of Worcester, has three children living; Nathaniel King, the only son, who m. Jane Foster, 3 children, 2 living—King Herrick, as he is always called, is a merchant at Middlesex village; Emily R., who died at 22; Harriet, who m. Abram S. Adams, had 5 children, and is deceased; Laura Jane, who m. John McDermid, had 2 daughters, buried one; Nancy Jane, who m. Arthur McDermid, bro. to John, 3 children, her husband dying, m. 2d, Frederick A. Richardson; Lydia Ann, who mar. Heman Taplin, no children; and youngest, Alma R., born in 1842, married V. V. Vaughn, Mar. 8, 1865,—children, Mabel, died at 10 years, Wilmar Herrick, Ida Alma, and Frank Waldo.

Mr. Herrick has been a man of great physical strength and vigorous mind. The following will evince what his mental ability has been:

When the Vt. Central R. R. was being built, Abram B. Barker and Thomas





Haight contracted to build 2 miles of it below Middlesex village. They carried on work for about a year and failed. Stephen Herrick took a contract to finish the work; carried it on about 13 months, and in consequence of short estimates also failed—but for which he immediately commenced a suit against the R. R. Co., and afterwards was retained for and commenced a suit in favor of Barker and Haight as agent for their creditors. After carrying on these suits for 8 years he got a decree against the R. R. Co. in his own case for about \$9000; the Barker & Haight suit he prosecuted for 20 years before getting a final decree.

In these suits he took all his testimony himself, examined his witnesses himself in court, and wrote out his own pleas. In a word he was his own lawyer. It is said he once appeared in Supreme court with his case written out, filling 300 pages, that Gov. Paine, the president of the road, said that that book would be the death of him. Mr. Herrick tells the story now well, and adds *that it was*. When Gov. Paine was summoned, he told the officer he had rather meet the devil than that Stephen Herrick in the court.

He has also successfully, as town agent, managed many suits for the town, including the noted Wythe pauper suit with Moretown, the Beckwith suit in regard to settling the 3 ministerial lots, and the East Hill road suit, and has managed many grand jury suits, in all of which he acted as his own counsel and made his own pleas.

The Saturday before the death of the late Hon. Daniel Baldwin, these two old men met upon the street at Montpelier village. Said Mr. Baldwin, "We two old men, the two oldest inhabitants of our respective neighboring towns, should have a visit together." Mr. Herrick assented, and asked where it should be. "It must be at my house," replied Mr. Baldwin, "and next Saturday, one week from to-day." The following Wednesday Mr. Baldwin died. Mr. Herrick seems remarkably hale and hearty yet.

#### REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONERS.

No official list of Revolutionary soldiers who have resided in Middlesex can be obtained, but the following-named men are said to have been Revolutionary pensioners who have lived in town: Estes Hatch, — Sloan, Jas. Hobart, Cyrus Hill, Micah Hatch, David Phelps, Col. Joseph Hutchins, Joseph Chapin, Sr., Lyman Tolman.

Seth Putnam was one of the first three settlers in Washington County, having moved into Middlesex in 1785. He was a cousin to the noted Israel Putnam, and as a subaltern in Col. Warner's celebrated regiment of Green Mountain Boys, participated in their battles and marches in the old Revolution. He related many of his adventures of the first settlement, and among them one of a remarkable march which he made through the wilderness in a snow-storm, from Rutland, where he had been in attendance as a member of the legislature during the month of November. The only traveled road to his home was then around by Burlington.

#### SOLDIERS BURIED IN TOWN IN THE WAR OF 1861.

S. F. Jones, Jacob Jones and Zenas Hatch,—in North Branch Cemetery.

Chester Newton,—in the Cemetery at the Center.

Nathaniel Jones,—in the village Cemetery.

Mrs. Esther Shontell, of this town, sent seven sons into the army in this war: William, who measured 6 feet 8 inches in height; Benjamin, 6 feet 4 inches; Frederick, 6 feet 3 inches; Leander, 5 feet 9 inches; Lewis, 6 feet 1 inch; Joseph, 6 feet 7 inches; Augustus, 6 feet. Two of the brothers were killed; and the mother draws a pension for one of them. Another left a widow, and two are pensioned on account of wounds.

O, the strong Middlesex boys  
Were mad for the war!  
And the name of each hero  
To the ages afar  
Shall leave a track like a comet—  
Each shine as a star.



## LIST OF MEN CREDITED TO THE TOWN OF MIDDLESEX, 1861-1865.

BY STEPHEN HERRICK.

## VOLUNTEERS FOR THREE YEARS.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Reg. Co.</i>	<i>Enlistment.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Brown, Harvey W.	19	2 F	May 7 61	Died Feb. 4, 63, at Point Lookout, Md.
Smith, William S.	22	do	do	Died Sept. 5, 61, at Washington, D. C.
Ripley, William C.	21	3 H	June 1 61	Discharged Nov. 8, 62. [23, 65.
Scribner, Walter	21	4 G	Aug 22 61	Corp: pris. June 23, 64: must. out May
Herrick, George S.	23	do	Aug 29 61	Discharged Jan. 21, 63.
Leonard, Alonzo R.	21	do	Sept 3 61	Discharged Dec. 18, 62.
Leonard, Charles P.	19	do	do	Re-en. Feb. 8, 64: must. out May 23, 65.
Cushman, George H.	34	do	Aug 22 61	Corp: killed at Weldon R.R. June 23, 64.
Evans, Goin B.	21	6 G	Feb 18 62	Discharged April 24, 63. [June 26, 65.
Gould, Page	21	6 H	Aug 14 61	First Serg: wd. April 16, 62: must. out
Gould, Worthen T.	18	do	do	Died Jan. 4, 63, at Belle Plains, Va.
Jones, Stephen F.	44	do	do	Died Feb. 63, at Brattleboro.
Jones, Jacob G.	18	do	do	Died Jan. 24, 62, at Camp Griffin.
Divine, John	30	6 G	Oct 15 61	Re-en. Dec. 15, 63: must. out June 26, 65.
Lee, John Jr.	32	do	Sept 20 61	Re-en. Dec. 15, 63: must. out July 15, 65.
Sweeny, James	35	do	Sept 23 61	Discharged Jan. 8, 62.
Leonard, John R.	26	6 F	Oct 3 61	Mustered out Oct. 28, 64.
Whitney, Elijah	31	do	Oct 8 61	First Lieut: resigned June 19, 62.
Hogan, John	22	6 H	Aug 14 61	Wd. April 16, 62: deserted Jan. 19, 63.
Shontell, William	25	8 E	Oct 21 61	Corp: discharged Feb. 12, 63.
Shontell, Benjamin	24	do	Dec 16 61	Discharged Oct. 16, 62.
Shontell, Frederick	22	do	Jan 10 62	Died May 16, 62.
Shontell, Leander	19	do	Dec 16 61	Wd. Sept. 4, 62: must. out Aug. 3, 64.
Amel, Louis	38	do	Oct 7 61	Re-en. Jan. 5, 64: must. out June 28, 65.
Warren, Lorenzo S.	22	do	Dec 7 61	Wd. Sept. 4, 62: dis. April 6, 63.
Warren, Alonzo S.	20	do	do	Died March 19, 63.
Kinson, Benjamin H.	26	do	Oct 3 61	Died June 18, 62.
Wilson, Francis	28	do	do	Corp: died Dec. 5, 62.
Nichols, Roswell S.	41	do	Nov 30 61	Musician: discharged June 30, 62.
Lewis, Frederick A.	18	Cav C	Sept 13 61	Paroled pris: must. out May 23, 65.
Lewis, DeForest L.	20	do	Nov 12 61	Mustered out Nov. 18, 64.
Scott, Elisha	50	do	Sept 20 61	do [Nov. 18, 64.
George, Albert	21	do	Sept 13 61	Pro. Corp: wd. Apr. 1, 63: mustered out
Smith, John W.	41	do	Sept 12 61	Corp: discharged Oct. 9, 62.
Chase, Austin A.	21	do	Oct 3 61	Discharged Nov. 27, 61.
Spencer, George W.	28	do	Sept 20 61	Discharged Oct. 3, 62.
Hastings, Sidney B.	42	do	do	Discharged Nov. 18, 64.
Dudley, William N.	32	do	Sept 12 61	Discharged Jan. 13, 63.
Preston, Philander R.	27	do	Sept 21 61	{ Wd. July 6, 63: Re-en. Dec. 31, 63; taken pris. June 29, 64; died at Florence, S. C., Jan., 65.
Wells, Warren O.	38	1st Bat	Dec 3 61	Corp: mustered out Aug. 10, 64. [La.
Hills, Zerah	34	do	do	Corp: died June 25, 63, at Port Hudson.
Oakland, George	24	2d Bat	Oct 23 61	Corp: re-en. Feb. 20, 64: mus. out July 31, 65.
Hogan, Henry	20	9 I	June 18 62	Pro. Corp: do. Serg: mus. out June 13, 65.
Smith, William P.	19	do	June 30 62	Died Oct. 12, 62.
Cushman, Holmes	27	10 B	July 25 62	Mustered out June 22, 65.
Williams, Hiram	29	do	Aug 1 62	Died Feb. 17, 65, at Washington, D. C.
Morrisett, John	28	do	July 30 62	Mustered out June 22, 65.
Patterson, Robert	35	do	Aug 6 62	Wd. Oct. 19, 64: dis. May 27, 65.
Scaribo, Fabius	28	do	Aug 4 62	Mustered out June 22, 65. [15, 65.
Lewis, Charles J.	25	11 D	Aug 12 62	Sec. Lt: pro. 1st Lt: do. Capt: dis. May
Fiffeld, William C.	41	6 F	Aug 15 62	Must. out June 19, 65. [out June 19, 65.
Tobin, John W.	18	do	do	Wd. Sep. 19, 64: pro. Corp: do Serg: mus.
Cameron, Sylvester	25	do	do	Mustered out June 19, 65.
Ward, Tertullus C.	26	do	do	Killed in ac. at Gettysburgh, July 3, 63.
Bean, Albert	23	2 D	do	Died Oct. 3, 64, at Sandy Hook, of wds.
Bruce, George W.	23	10 K	Aug 11 62	Deserted July 5, 63.
Jones, Jabez	19	11 I	Dec 5 63	Died at Middlesex, July 10, 65.
Chase, Amos J.	40	Cav C	Nov 24 63	Mustered out Aug. 9, 65.
Buck, William H. H.	22	Cav G	Dec 11 63	Discharged Sept. 15, 65.
Templeton, James A.	45	Cav C	Dec 8 63	Mustered out Aug. 9, 65.
Cameron, John	26	do	Dec 18 63	Wd. May 6, 64: discharged Feb. 22, 65.
Rublee, Otis N.	18	3d Bat	Sept 5 63	Musician: mustered out June 15, 65.
Herrick, Geo. S.	25	do	Nov 2 63	do
Amel, Louis	19	do	Sept 15 63	do



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